KARAKURI CIRCUS

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

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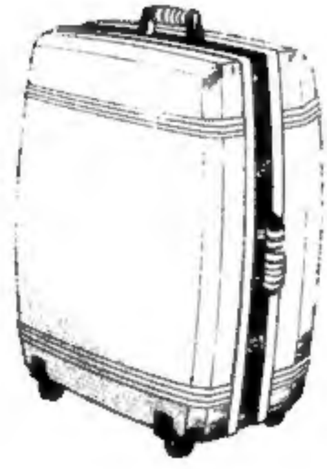


KARAKURI CIRCUS VOLUME 1

SUMMARY :

ACT 1: MASARU - CHAPTER 01 "THE CURTAIN RISES"

ACT 1: MASARU - CHAPTER 02 "SHIROGANE"

ACT1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 03 "THE FIGHT AGAINST POLICHINELLE"

ACT1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 04 "NARUMI IS EMBARRASSED"

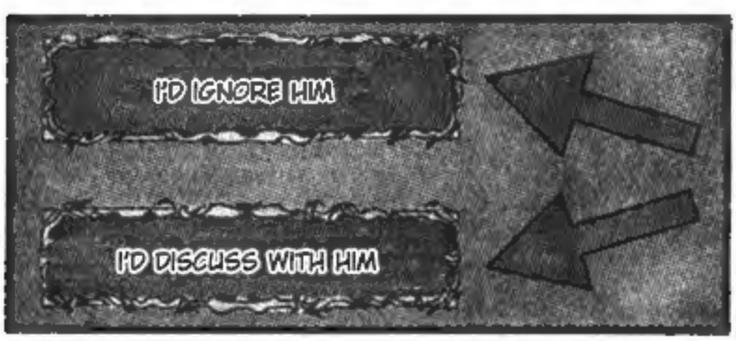
ACT1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 05 "AT NARUMI'S HOUSE"

ACT1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 06 "PROMISE"

ACT1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 07 "THE KIDNAPPERS"

ACT1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 08 "FLIGHT"

ACT1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 01
"THE CURTAIN RISES"



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EDITED BY VENSU
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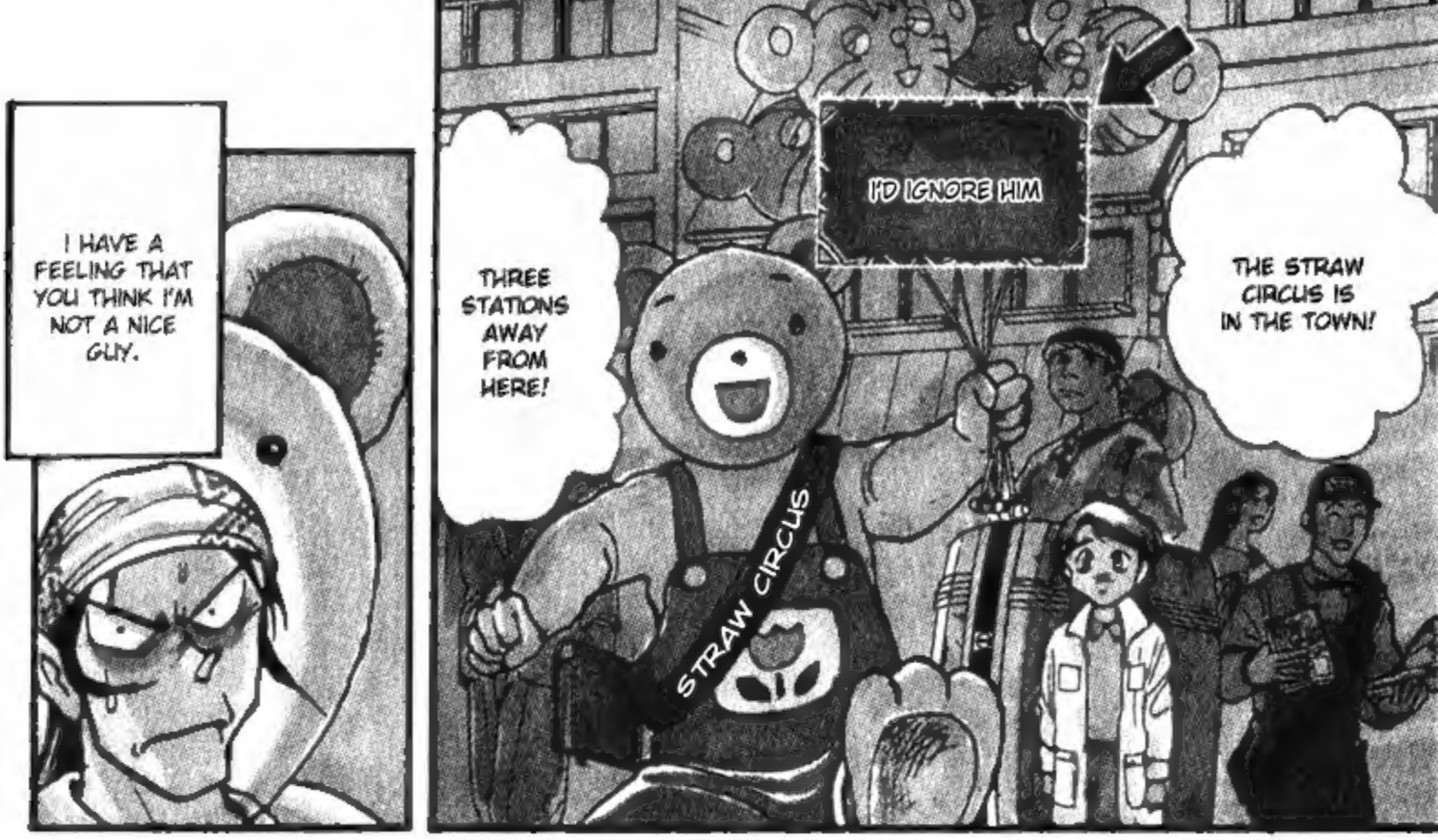
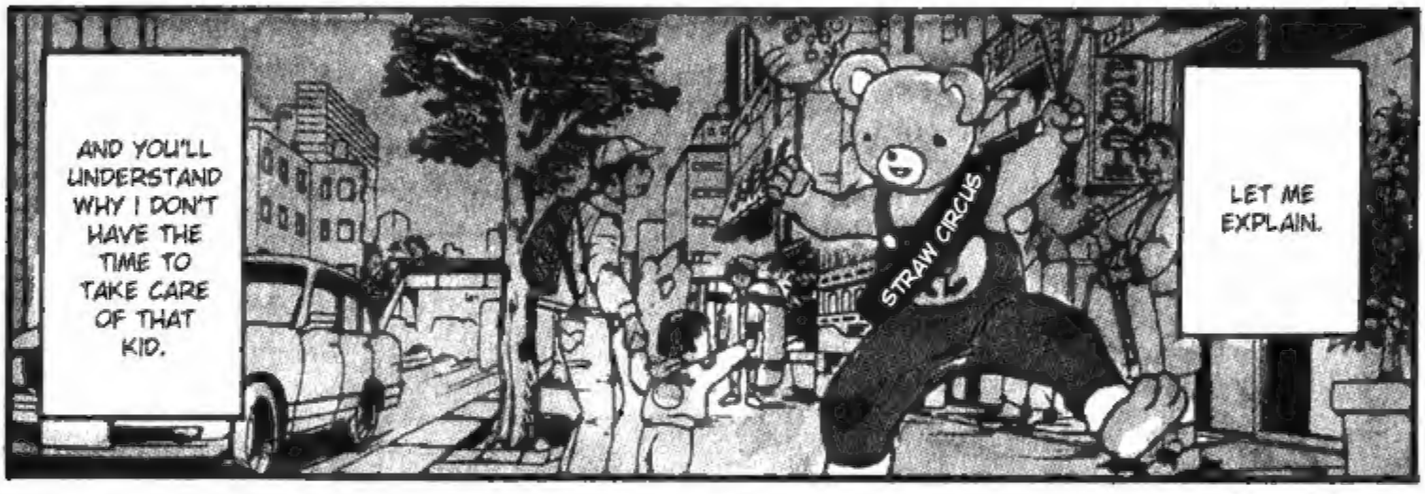
ACT1 : MASARU
CHAPTER 01
"THE CURTAIN RISES"

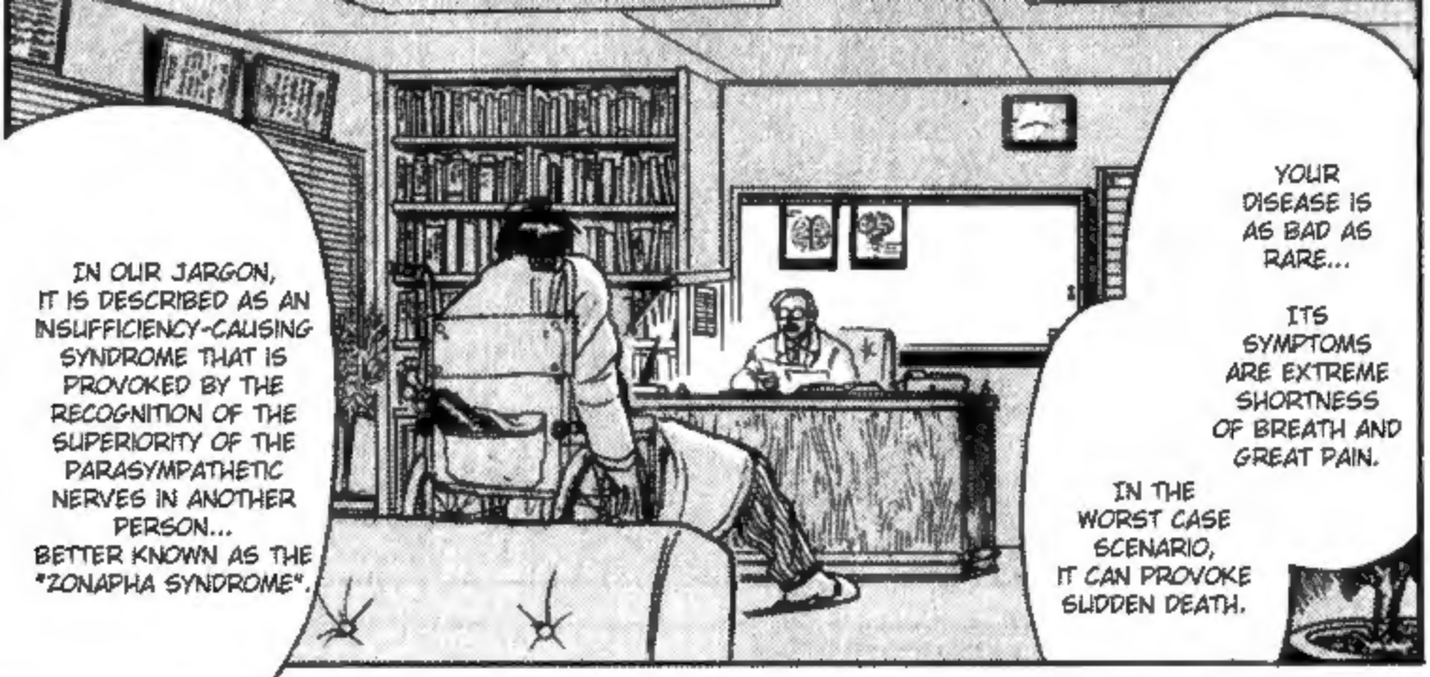

I HAVE A FEELING THAT YOU THINK I'M NOT A NICE GUY.
THREE STATIONS AWAY FROM HERE!
I'D IGNORE HIM
THE STRAW CIRCUS IS IN THE TOWN!
STRAW CIRCUS

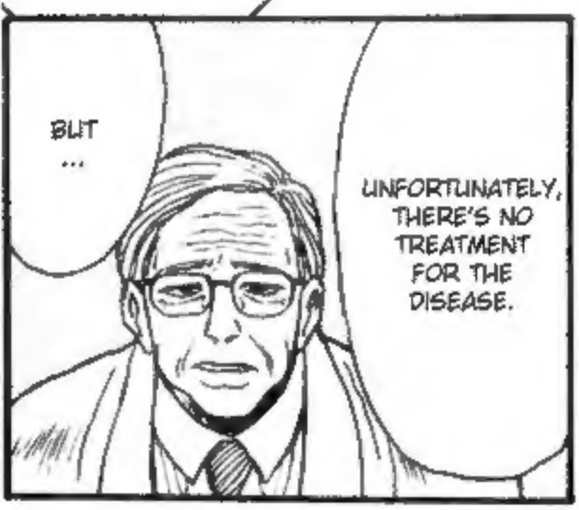

AND YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF THAT KID.
STRAW CIRCUS
LET ME EXPLAIN.

AND I LIVED IN CHINA FOR A TIME ...
MY FATHER WORKED IN THE IMPORT AND EXPORT INDUSTRY

BUT ...
HA! HA! WHO'S NEXT?
I REALLY WAS IN MY ELEMENT
DURING MY STAY, I BECAME CRAZY ABOUT KUNG-FU
DAN
DAN
BREATH ... ANYMORE ...
I... I CAN'T ...
HHH
...I BECAME ILL ALL OF A SUDDEN
BLAM
BOOM
HHH
BAM DOOM
MISTER KATO, I HAVE BAD NEWS ...
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT DISEASE WAS?

KARAKURI
CIRCUS


YOUR DISEASE IS AS BAD AS RARE...
ITS SYMPTOMS ARE EXTREME SHORTNESS OF BREATH AND GREAT PAIN.
IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO, IT CAN PROVOKE SUDDEN DEATH.
IN OUR JARGON, IT IS DESCRIBED AS AN INSUFFICIENCY-CAUSING SYNDROME THAT IS PROVOKED BY THE RECOGNITION OF THE SUPERIORITY OF THE PARASYMPATHETIC NERVES IN ANOTHER PERSON... BETTER KNOWN AS THE "ZONAPHA SYNDROME".


BUT ...
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S NO TREATMENT FOR THE DISEASE.

WHAT ... CAN I...
DO ...
TO CURE IT?

...THAT YOU MUST MAKE THE OTHERS LAUGH!

WHAT ?!
ALL THE SYMPTOMS WILL DISAPPEAR IF YOU SUCCEED IN PUTTING YOUR MIND... "ABOVE" THE OTHER'S

SO, IN SHORT, IT MEANS ...

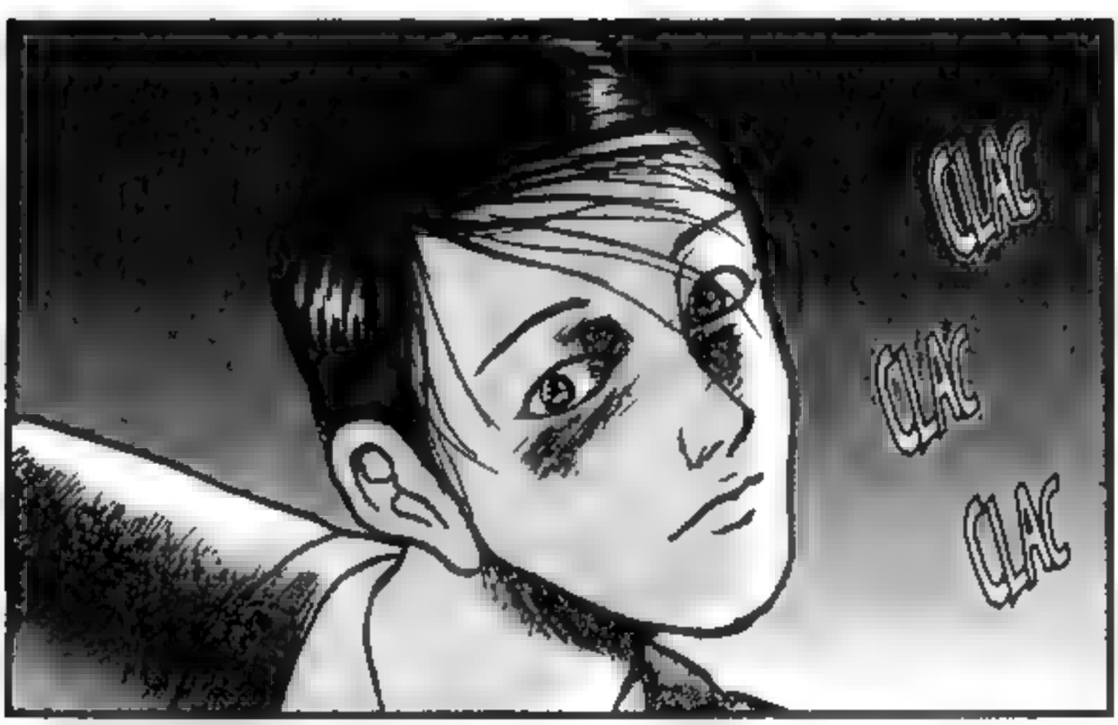
BASICALLY, IF I DON'T MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH, I'LL DIE !
SO? DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT KIND OF SITUATION I'M IN ?
I TRY TO MAKE PASSERS-BY LAUGH...
CIRCUS
THAT'S WHY I'M DRESSED UP LIKE A BEAR AND DELIVERING LEAFLETS FOR A CIRCUS ...
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
EVEN IF I'M NOT IN A GOOD MOOD FOR THAT...
COME ON, LAUGH !!
...AND TO SAVE MY LIFE AS WELL!
I CAN'T BREATHE ANYMORE !!
I BEG YOU!
FOR SEVERAL DAYS, NO ONE HAS LAUGHED WHEN THEY SAW ME ...

HA! HA! ...
... M?
CIRCUS
BYE BYE ...
I'M SAFE!
PHEW
TAN

I THINK HE DESERVES IT
I'D DISCUSS WITH HIM
DAK
HEY! YOU STILL HAVE TO DELIVER THESE LEAFLETS !
...
...
CIRCUS
WHAT THE ...
BOOKSHOP
HEY ...
DISH OF THE DAY
OPEN
NO... HELP!
SAH
AAHH !
GAAHH

...
...
WHAT SHOULD DO ? HE MIGHT JUST BE A KID TRYING TO RUN AWAY!
THEY'RE SURROUNDING THE KID TO HIDE HIM
A KIDNAPPING ?!
PEOPLE AROUND HIM DON'T REAL ZE T!
WAIT!
SBAAAF
WE..., NEVER MIND ... IF I'M WRONG, I'L APOLOG ZE LATER
YES
... KIDNAPPING YOU?
ARE THEY ...
BRI ON

I'LL KICK YOUR ASS!!
BASTARDS
SBAM


CLAC
CLAC
CLAC

OOH, NOOO! I BROKE HIS NECK!

GU
OOO
...OWWW !!
WHAT ?!

GO
SLAM
... WHAT STRENGTH !!
THAT'S ENOUGH !!
NO IT SEEMS THAT IT STAYED IN PLACE
HE DISLOCATED HIS SHOULDER BY HIMSELF ?!

BLA BLA BLA
BLA BLA BLA
THE BEAR IS FIGHTING WITH THOSE WEIRD GUYS !!
...WHO ARE THESE MEN IN BLACK?
BUT...
ARE THEY MAKING A SHOW ?
WE HAVE TO RUN AWAY !
MISTER
CIRCUS
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS !
...THE BEAR IS LEAVING
WE RUN AWAY
WE STAY
WHAT TO DO ?
HEY! MY SUIT-CASE !

THE BEAR WAS HANDING OUT LEAFLETS FOR A CIRCUS WHICH JUST SETTLED NEARBY!
OF COURSE !
WAS IT REALLY A SHOW ?
THEY'RE LEAVING ...
TAN TAN TAN
MIKADO JOSUI STATION
TICKETS
I HIT THEM WITH ALL MY STRENGTH BUT IT WAS USELESS! IN ADDITION TO THAT, THEY MOVED THEIR ARMS AND HEADS WEIRDLY !!
WHO THE HELL WERE THOSE GUYS ?!!
BLO
SHA

HEY KID! TELL ME WHAT'S THE MEANING BEHIND ALL THIS !
TELL ME!! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE ME A PART OF THIS THING!
GOOOHH
YES... EXCUSE ME...
HMM.. YOU HAVE A FACE THAT'S MORE STRANGE-LOOKING THAN I THOUGHT ...
IF I HAVEN'T MET YOU A SHORT WHILE AGO ...
QUICK ...
LAUGH ...
WHAT ?
IT'S MY FAULT ..
NO! I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING!
IM' TELLING YOU TO LAUGH! ... OR I'LL KICK YOUR ASS!! "HA HA HA!" DO YOU UNDERSTAND?!
OKAY!
? ?
FFOOM

PLEASED TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS MASARU SAIGA.
I'M NARUMI KATO ... I'M 18
... AND YOU ?
SO?
ATAN
?
LAUGH!
I'M SORRY ...
"PLEASED TO MEET YOU" ?!
WHERE THE HELL DO YOU COME FROM?
... WHEN MY FATHER DIED
... ...
THOSE PEOPLE STARTED TO APPEAR ...
... SAIGA ?
THE BIG ELEC-TRONIC FIRM?
WATCH-MAKING / TELECOMMUNICATIONS / ELECTRONIC-/- META...
SAIGA
BUILDING F RM / INTERNATIONNA. TRADE /- BANK AND INSURANCE...
PETROCHEMICA. INDUSTRY / OFFICE EQUIPMENT...
... THAT IS "SAIGA"
DO YOU KNOW THE SAIGA ENTERPRISE ?
ER...
YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR FATHER ANYMORE ...

MY FATHER ..
.. WAS THE PRESIDENT OF SAIGA.
IS IT FAMOUS ?
THEY HAD A VERY BIG BUILDING IN HONG-KONG ... ON TV, WE SAW COMMERCIALS FOR THEIR PRODUCTS EVERY DAY
HOW DID YOUR FATHER DIE?
HE HAD A CAR ACCIDENT, ON A FREE-WAY..
IT WAS TALKED ABOUT IN THE NEWS ..
AND NOW, WEIRD GUYS WANT TO KIDNAP HIS SON ...
WHAT WAS IT ?
HE LOST CONTROL OF HIS CAR.. IT SEEMS THAT HE HAD RUN ON SOMETHING ..
REALLY ?

SOME SORT OF .. BIG PUPPET

I REMEMBERED SOMETHING THAT MY GRAND-FATHER, WHO PASSED AWAY HAD SAID
AND AT THAT MOMENT
... ... ?!

WAH! THERE ARE A LOT OF DOLLS AND PUPPETS HERE!
.. ARE YOU SURPRISED, MASARU?
BUT, YOU KNOW . . ALL THE MEN OF THE SAIGA FAMILY HAVE A ROOM LIKE THIS ONE
REALLY?! MY FATHER TOO?!
OF COURSE! DO YOU REMEMBER THE BASEMENT IN YOUR HOUSE AT TOKYO? IT'S WHERE YOUR FATHER KEPT ALL HIS PUPPETS.
I NEVER REALLY KNEW WHY, BUT ALL THE MEN OF OUR FAMILY WERE INTERESTED IN MECHANICAL PUPPETS...
WAH!
IN PUPPETS WHICH MOVE, LIKE THEY WERE ALIVE . .
YOU KNOW, THEIR INTERNAL MECHANISM IS VERY COMPLEX SOMETIMES.
WE CALL THEM "AUTOMAT"
I HEARD THAT A LONG TIME AGO, A FAMILY WAS SPECIALIZED IN THE MAKING OF THAT KIND OF PUPPETS
IT'S TRUE... AS FAR AS OUR FAMILY IS CONCERNED, WE ONLY LIKE MACHINES.
THAT'S WHY THE SAIGA GROUP IS THE WORLD LEADER IN THE DOMAIN OF TOOLS AND ACCURACY MACHINES
... AND OUR FORTUNE IS ALMOST 18 BILLION YEN ...

MASARU, LISTEN CAREFULLY.
IF YOUR FATHER DIES BEFORE YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH
YES... IT'S TRUE ...
YOU KNOW, GRANDFATHER ... ONE DAY, MY FATHER SAID...
. .THAT ALL WILL BELONG TO ME
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
...DESPITE THE PROBLEMS YOU MAY HAVE TO FACE.
YOUR FATHER HAS ALWAYS WISHED FOR THAT...
"SHIROGANE" ...
... IS GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
RUN AWAY, AND TAKE THIS SUITCASE WITH YOU.
AND STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN ...

I DON'T KNOW, BUT MY GRANDFATHER TOLD ME ...
AND, WHO'S "SHIROGANE" ?
YES!
YOU REALLY DID WHAT YOUR GRANDFATHER TOLD YOU!
THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED ME TO TAKE YOU TO THE CIRCUS I WAS ADVERTISING FOR?
... THAT HE'LL ALWAYS BE IN A CIRCUS NEAR ME.
THOSE GUYS WE SAW... THEY WANTED TO KIDNAP YOU. THEY SHOULD BE UNDER THE ORDER OF SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO TAKE YOUR INHERITANCE AWAY. .
EVEN IF THAT IDEA DOESN'T DELIGHT ME.
BUT ...
WE SHOULD CALL THE COPS
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT IT MAY BE SOMEONE FROM MY FAMILY ?!!
WHAT ?!
A PERSON WHO WOULD GET THAT MONEY IF YOU DIE ..

CLIC
I CAN'T !
LALLLLLLLGH!
RRR ...
OH, NO!
THEY CAME IN THE TRAIN!
... LOOK OVER THERE !
CLIC
I'LL CALL THE COPS AFTER I KICK YOUR ASS !!
NO NEED TO BEAT AROUND THE BUS! I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!

HE'S NOT SAYING ANYTHING
I WONDER IF HE HEARD ME
YOU'RE REALLY BRAVE TO CHALLENGE ME WITHOUT A WEAPON ...
WAIT!
WHAT STRENGTH!!
IT' INHUMAN !!

BAHAM
HEY!
BLOOM
AH!
... WHAT ?!
!!
IT'S ONE
OF THEM!
THEY'RE READY
... TO GO THAT FAR ?!
TRAIN

KRAG
RR
BAAAA
KRAK
KRAG
BLOM
THEY THEY'RE PUPPETS !?!
"WHAT DOES "AT MEAN?!
PIECES

BANG
SCREECHING
MASARU, HANG ON!
AAAAHH!
OMNIBUS
OAAH

BLANG BOM
BLA
AM
GHH
GHH...
I MUST PROTECT THAT KID!
IT WON'T BE EASY ...
PAF
CIRCUS
SCHA
DROP IT... YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE!
EXCUSE ME... I'M REALLY SORRY ...
BOOM
BOOM
I HAVE TO TAKE HIM OUT OF DANGER!
BOOM
GH
Straw Circus
WELCOME

I'M SORRY ...
SORRY ...
CLIC
CLIC
...THAT I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ABLE TO HELP ME ...
IT WAS BECAUSE YOU'RE SO TALL... SO STRONG ...
STRAWCIRCUS
WELL ...
IF I MUST DIE...
... I MUST DIE ALONE !!

DA-A-AH
YOU MUST NEVER GIVE UP !!
YOU DID NOTHING !
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO REPROACH !

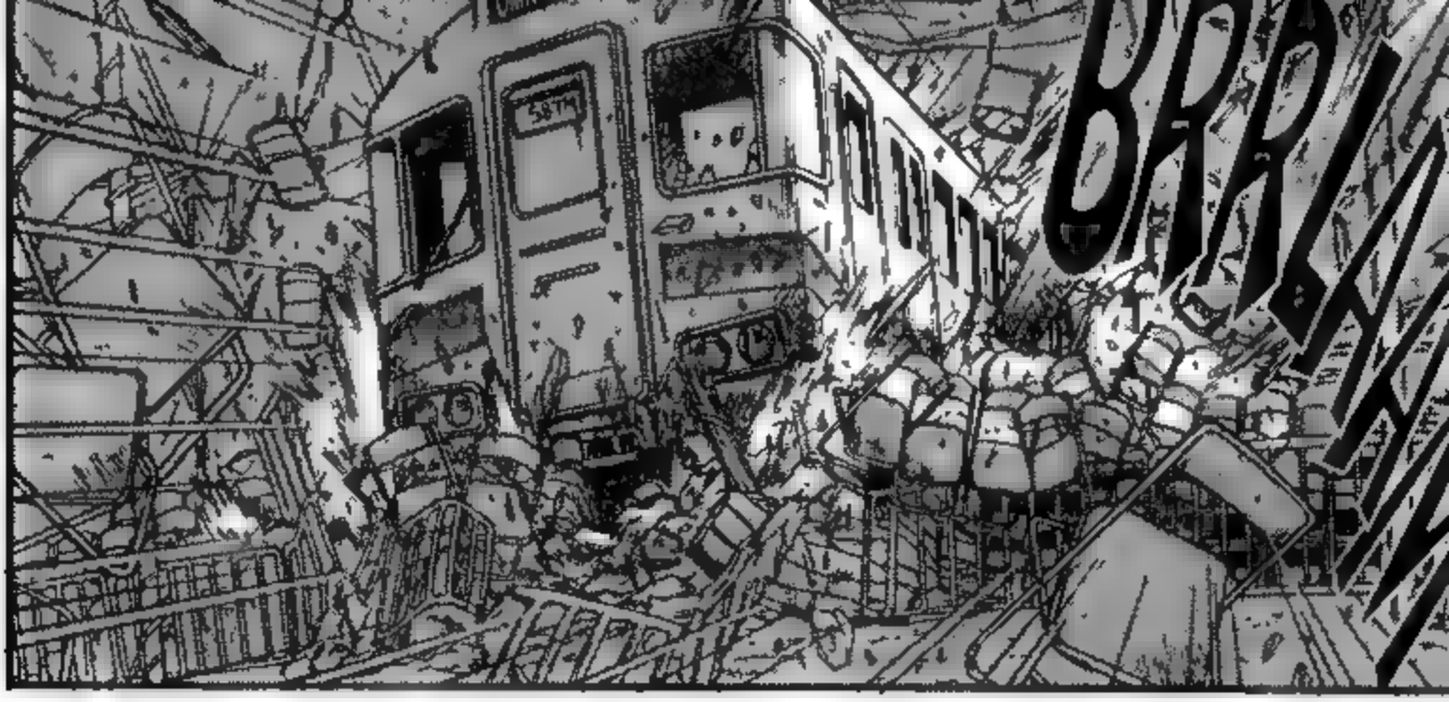
IZ-AH

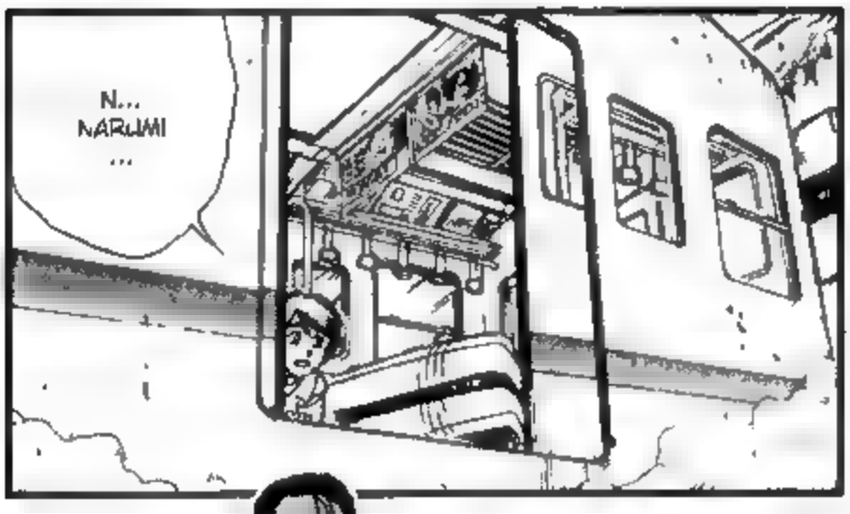
IF YOU'RE REALLY ANGRY, INSULT THOSE WHO ANNOY YOU!
IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL, SHOUT "HELP ME!"

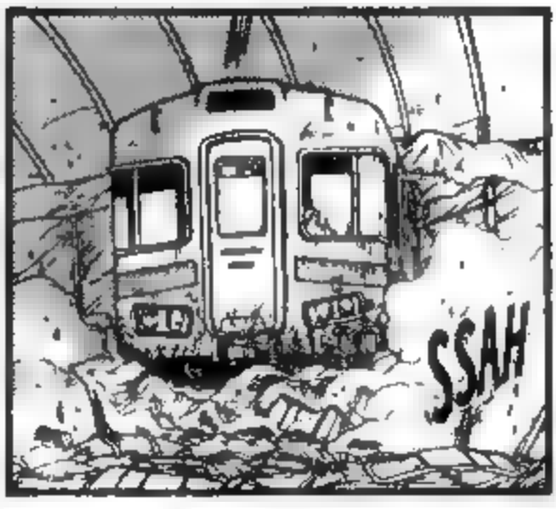
YOU MUST ...
KEEP A SMILING FACE!

BUT... NEVER GIVE UP! ... IT'S GOOD FOR NOTHING!
EVEN IF YOU'VE FOUGHT UNTIL THE END AND IT DOESN'T WORK...

SLAM
GOH
YAAHH !!
GHHH ...
BLAM
NARUMI!!!!!
TRAIN
SLAM
CRUSH
DASH


BRRRR


N...
NARUMI
...


SSAH

CLAC
CLIC

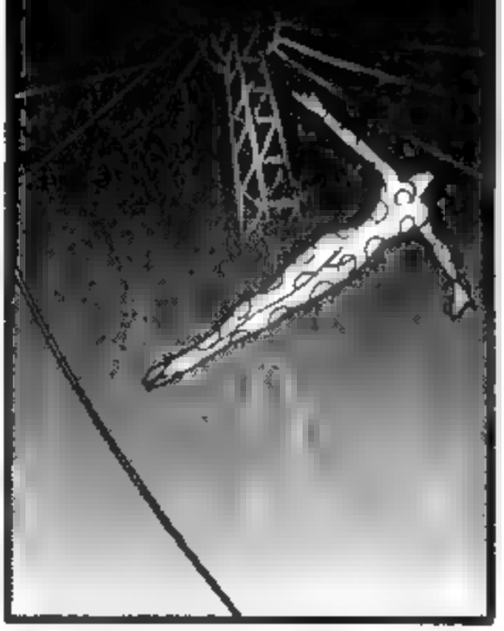
WHERE ARE YOU ?!

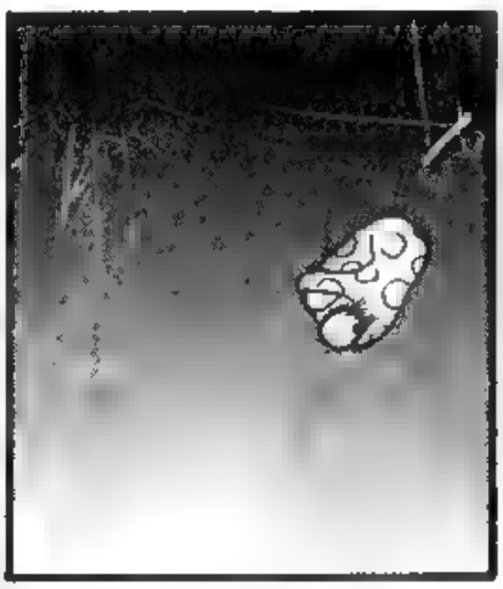
AH!!
CLIC

KIIIH
NOOOOOO !!!
AAH!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE EXISTS . .
I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS. .
SHIROGANEEE !!
SHI... SHIROGANE ...
SHIROGANEEE!
MUST NEVER GIVE UP !
BUT . .
SKI
GIVE UP!
DON'T EVER .

SHIRO
...
...
GANE
?
FLASH
WHAT
?!

SBLAM





SLAMP

GAN

PLEASE... STAY BACK MISTER MASARU
GAN

CLIC
CLAC
CLIC
GOLDEN

SHE IS SHIROGANE ?!
WHAT!

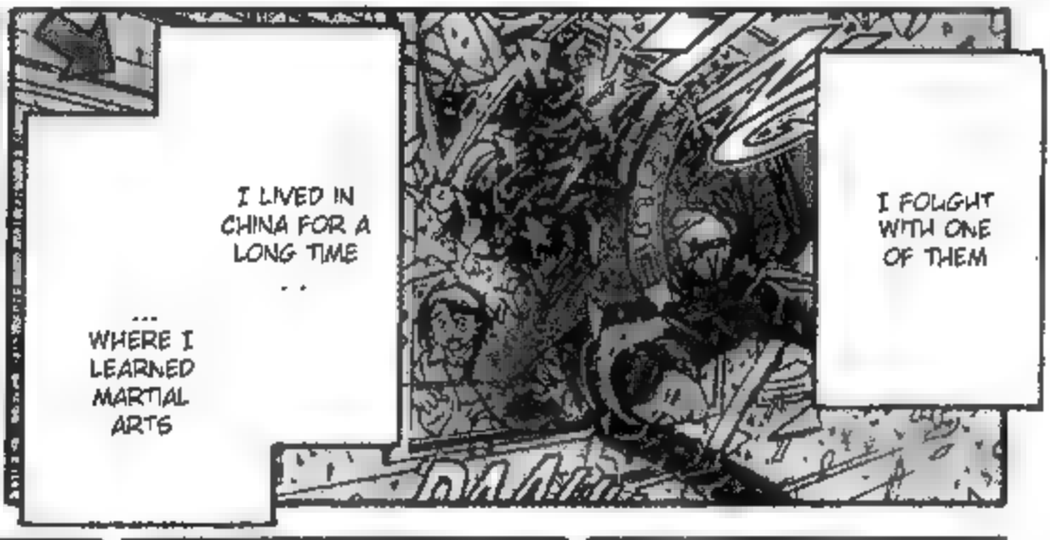
I THINK I MADE A CHOICE THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO TURN AWAY FROM
SOME WHERE

STRANGE GIRLS
THE CURTAINS HAVE RISEN TO A STRANGE STORY

ACT 1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 02
"SHIROGANE"

EVEN AFTER SEEING IT WITH MY OWN EYES, I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT!
JUST PUPPETS, WHO ARE AFRAID OF NEITHER PAIN NOR DEATH!
THE GUYS WHO WERE CHASING MASARU WERE JUST A BAND ..
. .OF PUPPETS!

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT PUPPET?


I LIVED IN CHINA FOR A LONG TIME . .
... WHERE I LEARNED MARTIAL ARTS
I FOUGHT WITH ONE OF THEM

AND I FINALLY SAW ..
SHIROGANE

HE TOLD ME THAT ..
. . "SHIROGANE" WILL TAKE CARE OF ME

A LONG TIME AGO, HIS GRANDFATHER TOLD HIM THAT ..
IF SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED, HE'D HAVE TO RUN AWAY CARRYING A BIG SUITCASE WITH HIM, AND...

ACT 1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 02
"SHIROGANE"

BOOM
ZAWZAWZ
VHHH
KKLAH

... MISTER MASARU ?
ARE YOU "SHIROGANE" ?!!
ERR...
TAH
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I CAN SEE YOU AGAIN AT LEAST!!
WHAT? ERR ...
YES, THANK YOU ..
... WHAT A JOY !

OUAH
PIN PON
PIN PON

AAH!
I'M SO SORRY!
YOU'RE CHOKING ME

I REMEMBER
THAT YOUR GRANDFATHER CALLED IT "ARLEQUIN"

YES!
YOUR PUPPET IS REALLY BIG!

...
WHEN YOU WERE LIVING IN FRANCE
I'M THE DAUGHTER OF YOUR NURSE
...
THE NURSE YOUR GRANDFATHER ENGAGED

MY GRANDFATHER ?!

AND NOW YOU'RE ELEVEN
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO ... YOU WERE A VERY YOUNG BOY ... OF ONLY A FEW YEARS
BUT... I NEVER LIVED IN FRANCE
MY MOTHER BECAME YOUR NURSE .. AND HER SALARY WAS REALLY HIGH ..
THEN WE WERE ABLE TO LIVE DECENTLY, WITHOUT EVER STARVING
.. WE WERE REALLY POOR ..
AT THAT TIME, HE HELPED MY FAMILY A LOT
THE YEAR BEFORE YOU CAME BACK TO JAPAN ... ... YOU LIVED IN YOUR GRANDFATHER'S FRENCH MANOR
I REMEMBER SOMEONE TELLING ME MY GRANDFATHER LIVED IN FRANCE A LONG TIME AGO
!
.. owww ..
SHU

KARAKURI
CIRCUS

WAIT !
NARUMI! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
... THOSE GUYS?
SO... WHAT WERE
AH
M?!

I DELIVER LEAFLETS FOR THIS CIRCUS !!
WHY DOES SHE THINK I'M HER ENEMY?! IT'S SILLY !!
SHE LOOKS LIKE A STRANGER, AND HER EYES ARE BRILLIANT LIKE SILVER!
THIS GIRL
WHO ARE YOU?!
WHAT?! ... I'M "WEIRD" ?!
MASARU, DON'T YOU THINK THIS GIRL IS WEIRD?
BUT YOU, WHO ARE YOU?
...I'VE LEARNT HOW TO MANIPULATE THIS BIG PUPPET THANKS TO MASARU'S GRANDFATHER!
AND WHAT'S THIS BIG PUPPET?! IT'S AUTOMATONS LIKE THIS THAT WANTED TO KIDNAP MASARU!!

I TRAINED HARD FOR SEVERAL YEARS
TO LEARN HOW TO MANIPULATE ARLEQUIN PROPERLY!
CLIC
HE'S THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO TAKE CARE OF HIS GRANDSON!
I MUST DO ANYTHING I CAN IF MASARU IS IN DANGER
I... I WAS ...
HE WAS ALONE, LOST IN THIS TOWN !
WHERE WERE YOU WHEN MASARU WAS ASKING FOR HELP? ... WHEN HE WAS RUNNING AWAY CARRYING HIS SUITCASE!
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO IS GOING TO SHUT UP!
AH
AAH, THAT'S ENOUGH! SHUT UP!
AHH
AH

GWA

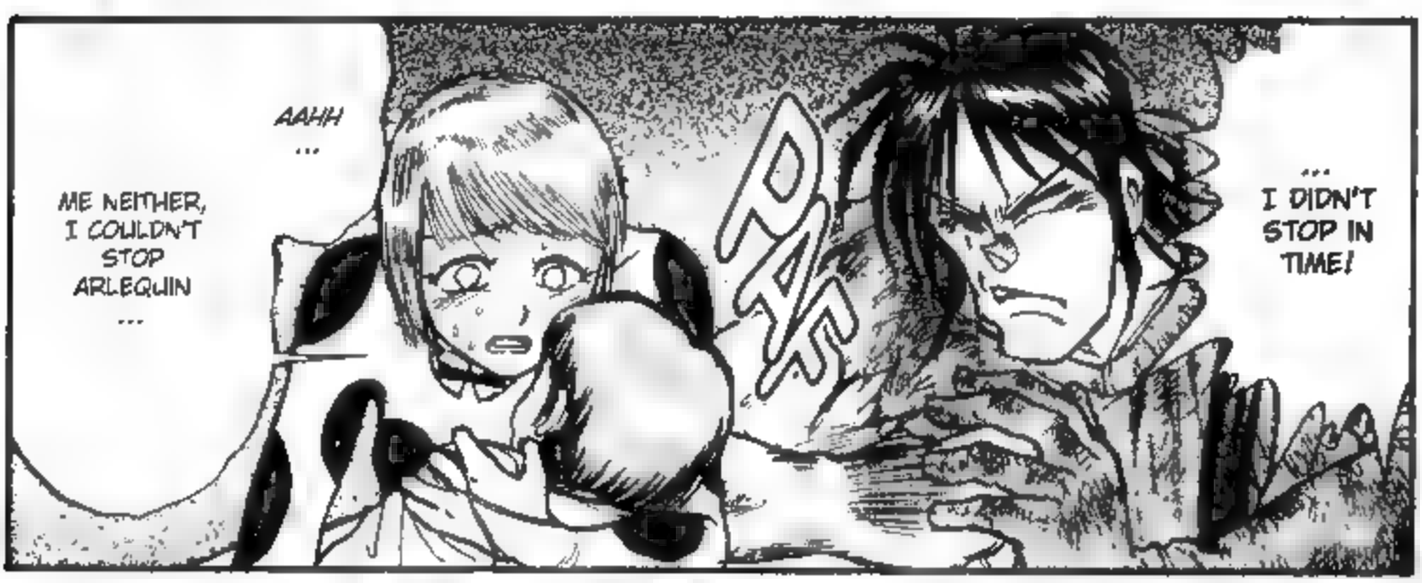
SCHRAC
I BEG OF YOU, STOP, BOTH OF YOU !!

MISTER MASARU!

I'M SO SORRY!
FORGIVE ME...
MISTER! MISTER! ANSWER ME!

PL.. PLEASE

MASARU, YOU IDIOT! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT YOU MUST NOT INTERVENE IN A FIGHT ?!!

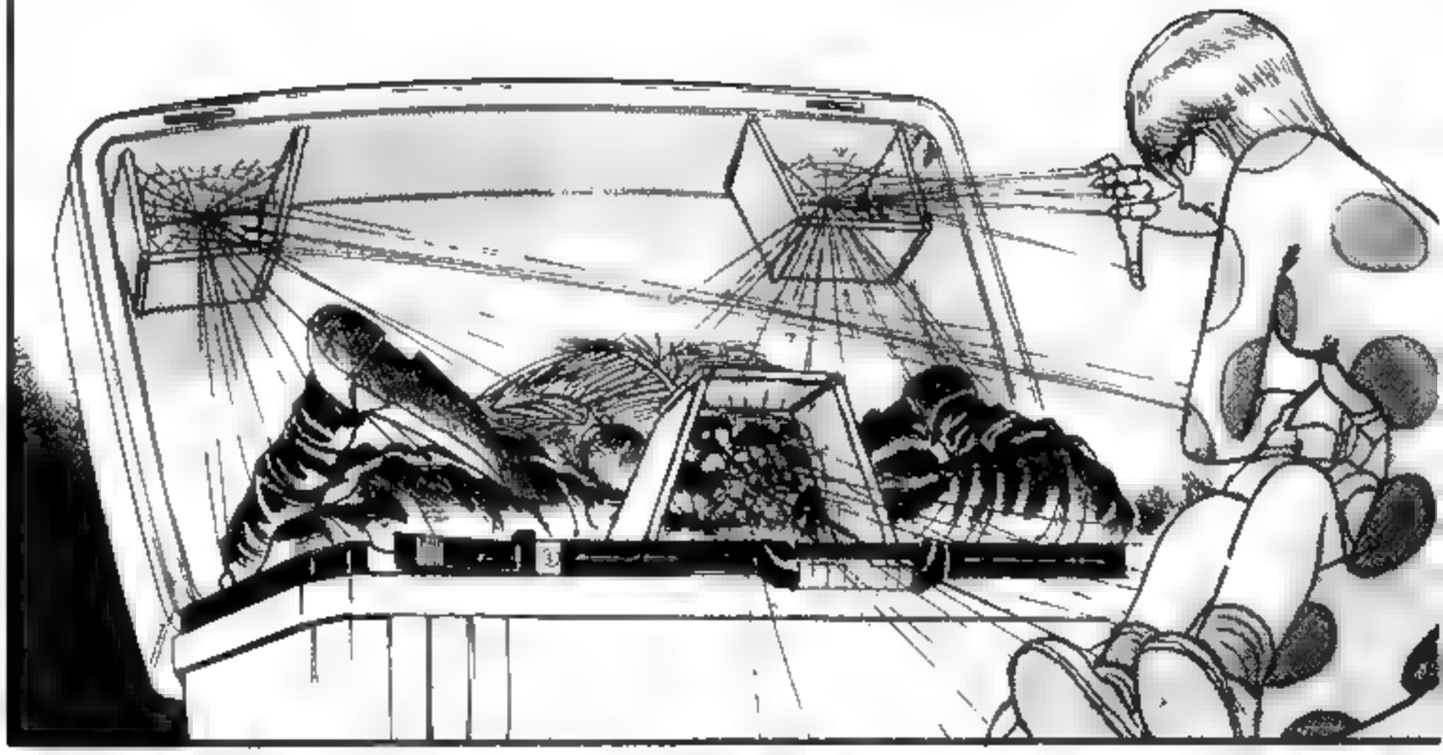

AAHH ...
ME NEITHER, I COULDN'T STOP ARLEQUIN ...
PAF
... I DIDN'T STOP IN TIME!

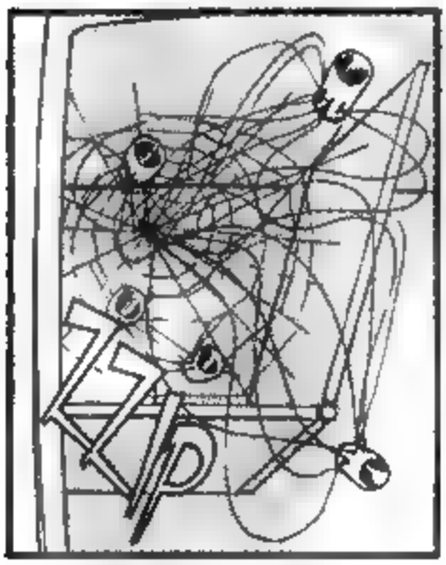
SHE SEEMS TO REALLY LIKE MASARU

MISTER MASARU ...
FORGIVE ME...

LET ME GO FIND SOME HELP. THE PARAMEDICS SHOULD BE HERE ALREADY ...

IT'S DANGEROUS HERE..
I'LL BRING MASARU TO A SAFE PLACE
EH! BLA BLA
OVER THERE
MASARU'S LIFE IS IN DANGER. ONE WANTED TO KILL HIM
YOU HAVE TO ASK TO THE POLICE FOR HELP
WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE COPS WHO ARE OUTSIDE ?
CLAC
YOW




ZIP

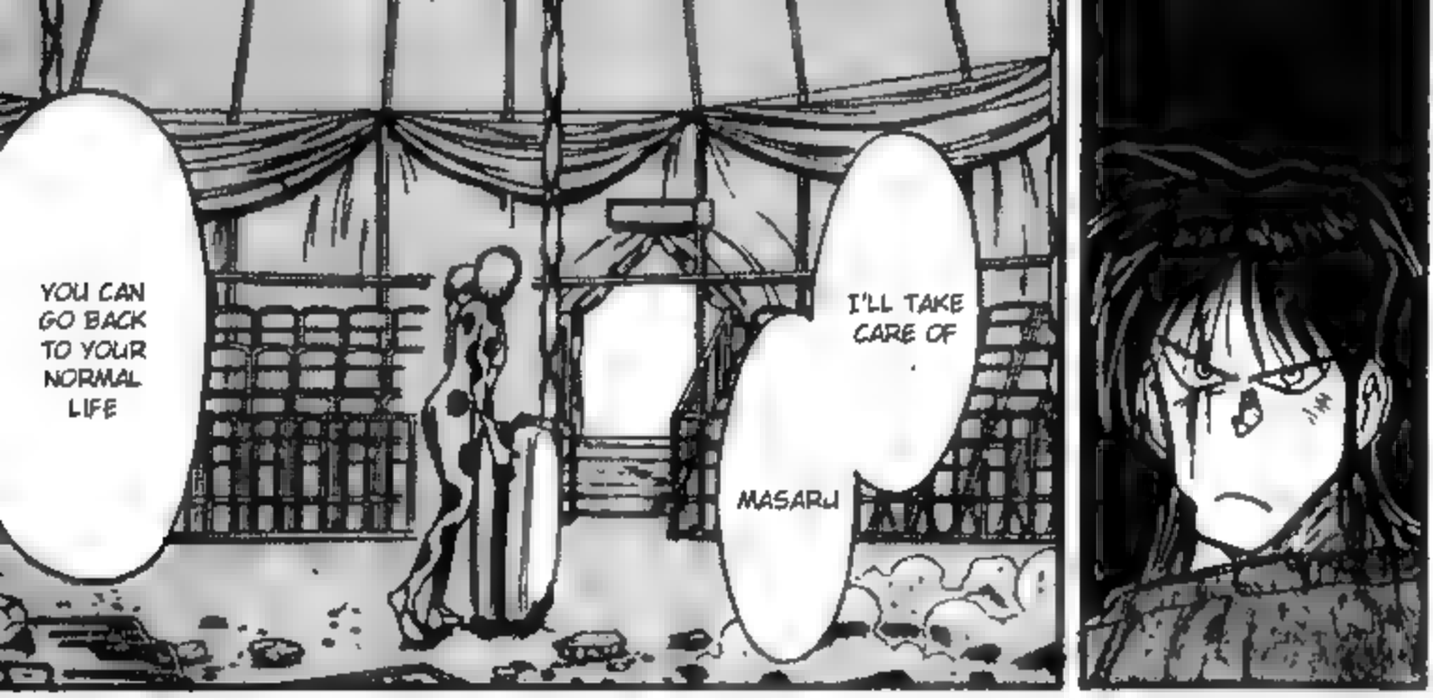
SSAH

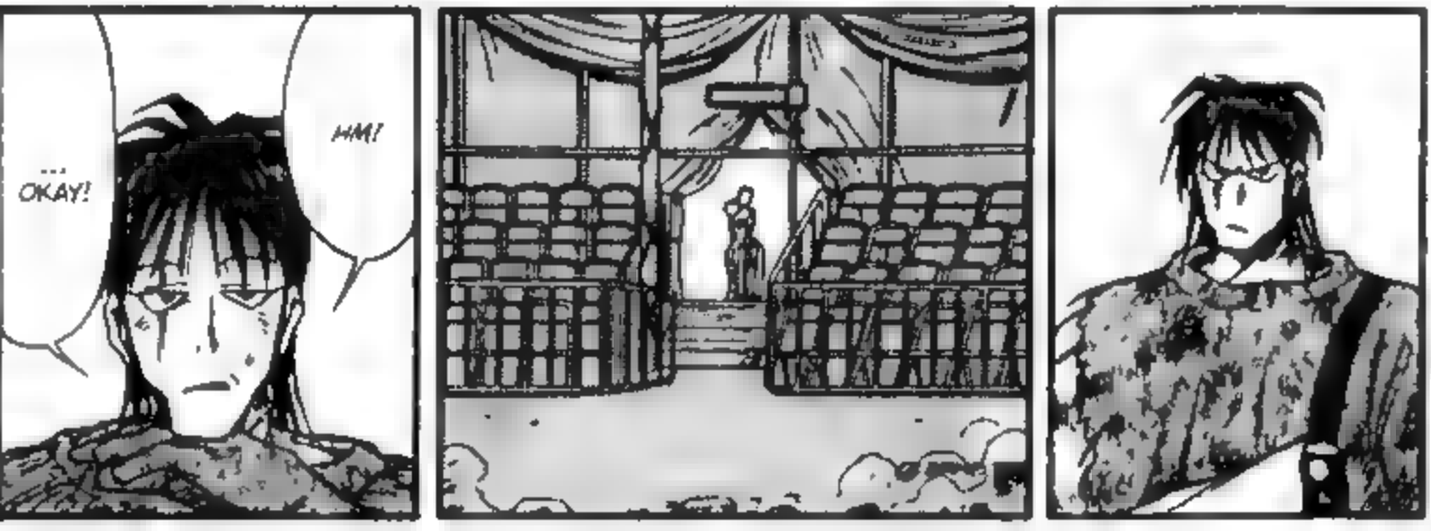
THAT BIG PUPPET CAN FIT IN THIS SUITCASE SO EASILY!

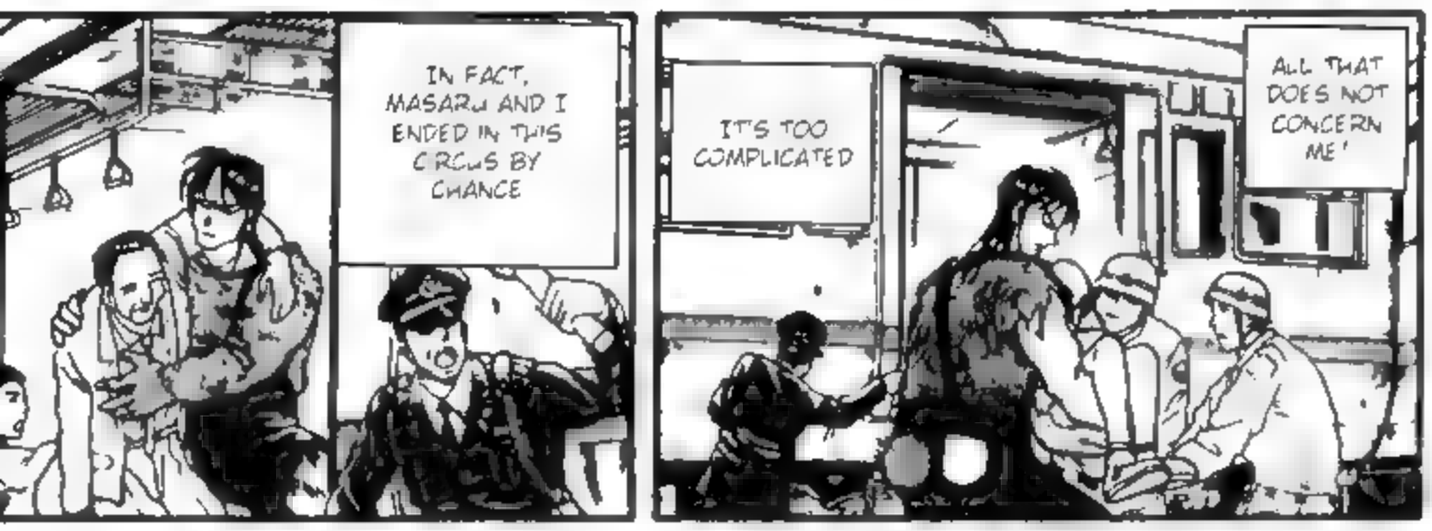
I'M GOING TO BRING MASARU TO A DOCTOR, IN A CALM PLACE
OKAY ..
SHOULD I GO WITH YOU?

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO DO ?

NO ...
ALL OF THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS FROM NOW ON ..


YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR NORMAL LIFE
I'LL TAKE CARE OF MASARU

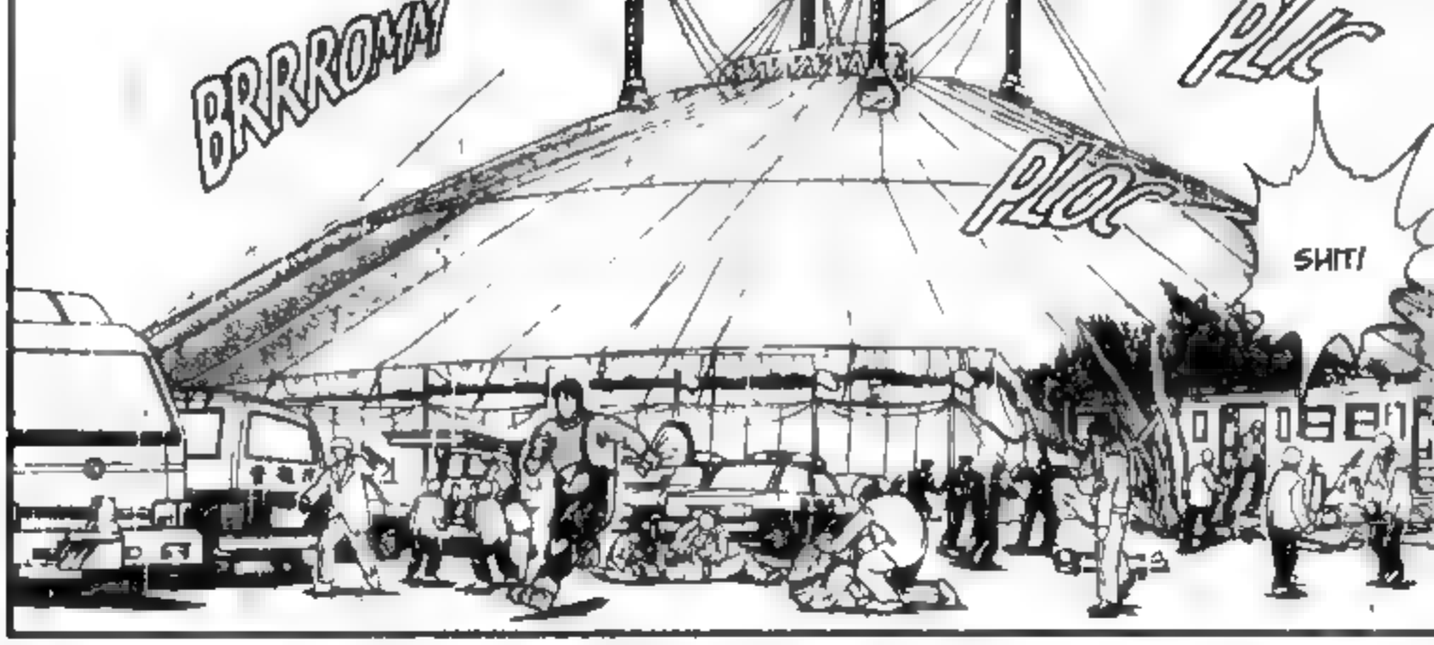

... OKAY!
HM!


IN FACT, MASARU AND I ENDED IN THIS CIRCUS BY CHANCE
IT'S TOO COMPLICATED
ALL THAT DOES NOT CONCERN ME!

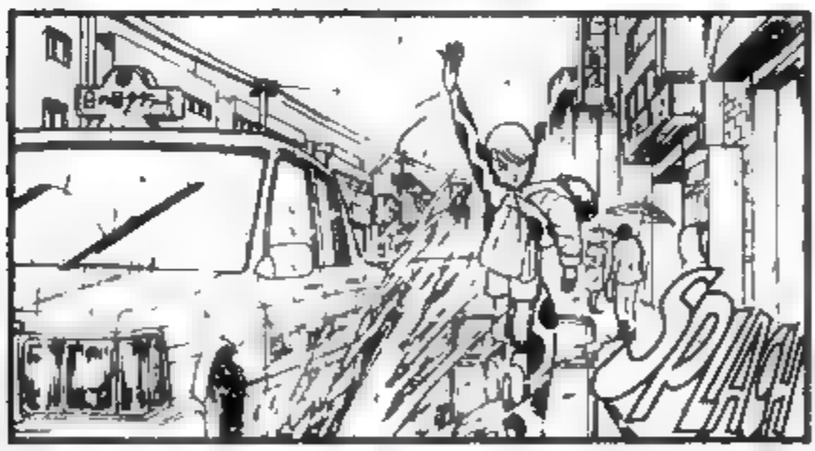
SO MY "NORMAL LIFE"
HOW FUNNY ''
ANYWAY
I'M GOING TO DIE IF I DON'T MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH

OUAAAHHH
FÉLÉBÉLÉ
LOOK AT THIS GRIMACE !
BRING HER TO THE HOSPITAL !
I THINK HER LEFT LEG IS BROKEN ..
. .AND PROVOKE DISASTERS
THEY DARE TO GET INNOCENT CHILDREN INVOLVED
IT SEEMS THAT THEY'RE READY TO DO ANYTHING TO KILL MASARU .
AND ME
NOW THAT I KNOW T
GAH!

I MUST
...
...MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH ?!
GEH
BUT
THE WORST
OUAHAHAH
IS THAT IF IT CONTINUES
...
...THIS YOUNG GIRL AND A LOT OF OTHER CHILDREN WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO LAUGH AGAIN
...


BRRROMM
PLIC
PLOC
SHIT!

CHHH


SPAH

Whaaat
?!

YOU'RE RIGHT ..
BUT A PROBLEM OCCURRED .
It shouldn't be so hard to kidnap a eleven year old kid!
You failed even with three "guys" ?!
ON THE OTHER HAND ... THERE WAS A GIRL WHO, LIKE US ...
MAN PULATES PUPPETS
YES.. A GUY, WHO WAS THERE BY CHANCE ... BUT HE'S NOT THE REAL PROBLEM ..
a problem ?
DON'T WORRY ...
I'LL HONOR MY CONTRACT
impossible !!

..
I ASK YOU FOR THE PERMISSION TO USE "POLICHINELLE"
THAT'S WHY ..
Chc
Chc
Chc
CHHH
CHHH
CHH
CHHH

I WAS SURE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO DO WITH A WOUNDED KID?!
I WANTED TO BRING HIM TO THE EMERGENCY WARD, BUT ...
ALL THE HOSPITALS ARE CLOSED ...
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU EVERY-WHERE!
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT A STRANGER CAN DO BETTER THAN A GUY FROM HERE ?!
IT WAS FORESEEABLE! TODAY IS SUNDAY!

WE'RE GOING TO BRING MASARU THERE
I LIVE AROUND HERE. I KNOW A DOCTOR WHO HAS HIS OWN PRACTICE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
COME
IF HE'S HURT, IT'S BECAUSE OF BOTH OF US!
THINK OF HIM FOR ONCE!
...
...
STRANGE
THAT EXPRESSION ON HER FACE! SHE LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE
I ...
I ..
VRROM
HURRY UP!

HO HO! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO BREAK MY DOOR!
Sugano nursing home
CHHHH
YOU'RE ALWAYS IN A JAM !
SORRY, DOCTOR ...
EVERY TIME YOU COME BACK TO JAPAN, WHICH IS RARELY .
NARUMI !
IT'S ALMOST WAR BETWEEN US .
I THINK YOUR GRANDFATHER WOULD'VE LIKED TO SEE YOU TOGETHER!
HEY .. THIS GIRL IS QUITE CUTE, NARUMI!
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!
ON HIS ARM .
HIS BRUISES ARE MINOR ... BUT ...
I HAD TO MAKE FIVE STITCHES
SAH
... THANK YOU SO MUCH !!
THANK YOU ...
REALLY ..

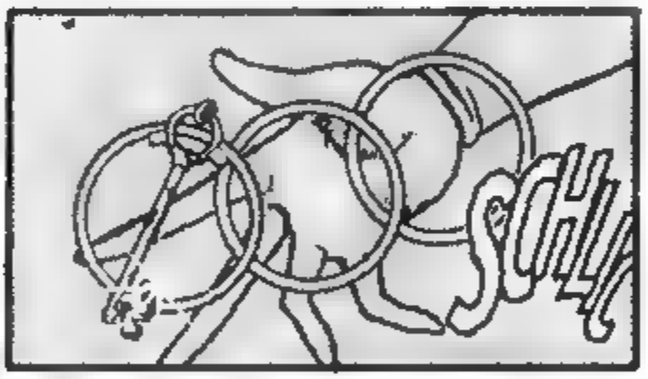
!
NN
..
YES!
I'M GOING UPSTAIRS
...
BEFORE HE CAN LEAVE, HE HAS TO REST A LITTLE
AND DON'T FORGET HIS MEDICINES!
HA! HA! HA!
...
IT SEEMS THAT TH S KID DOES NOT AGREE WITH YOU
...
WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME?
...
CLAC

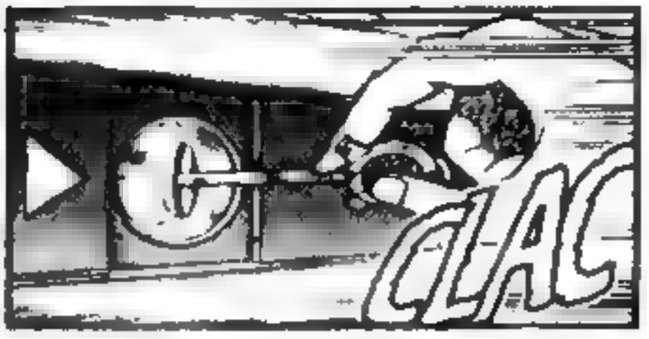
DON'T WORRY
WHAT I DO IS NEITHER FOR YOU NOR FOR HIM ...
EH ...
YOU STILL DON'T TRUST ME
.. IT WAS FOR ME
.. I USUALLY DON'T THINK ABOUT OTHERS PEOPLE ..
I DON'T HAVE A "NORMAL LIFE" !!
BESIDES, I DIDN'T LIKE WHAT YOU SAID WHEN YOU LEFT!

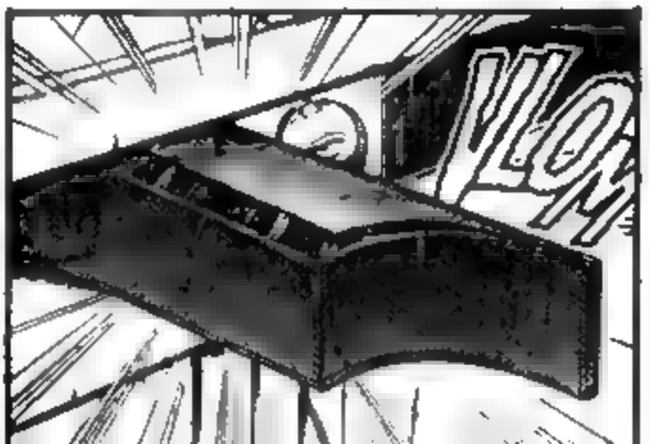
YOU'RE GOING TO WAKE MASARU UP!
I'M REALLY ANGRY! ...
AND I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT!
I'VE A BAD ILLNESS, AND ...

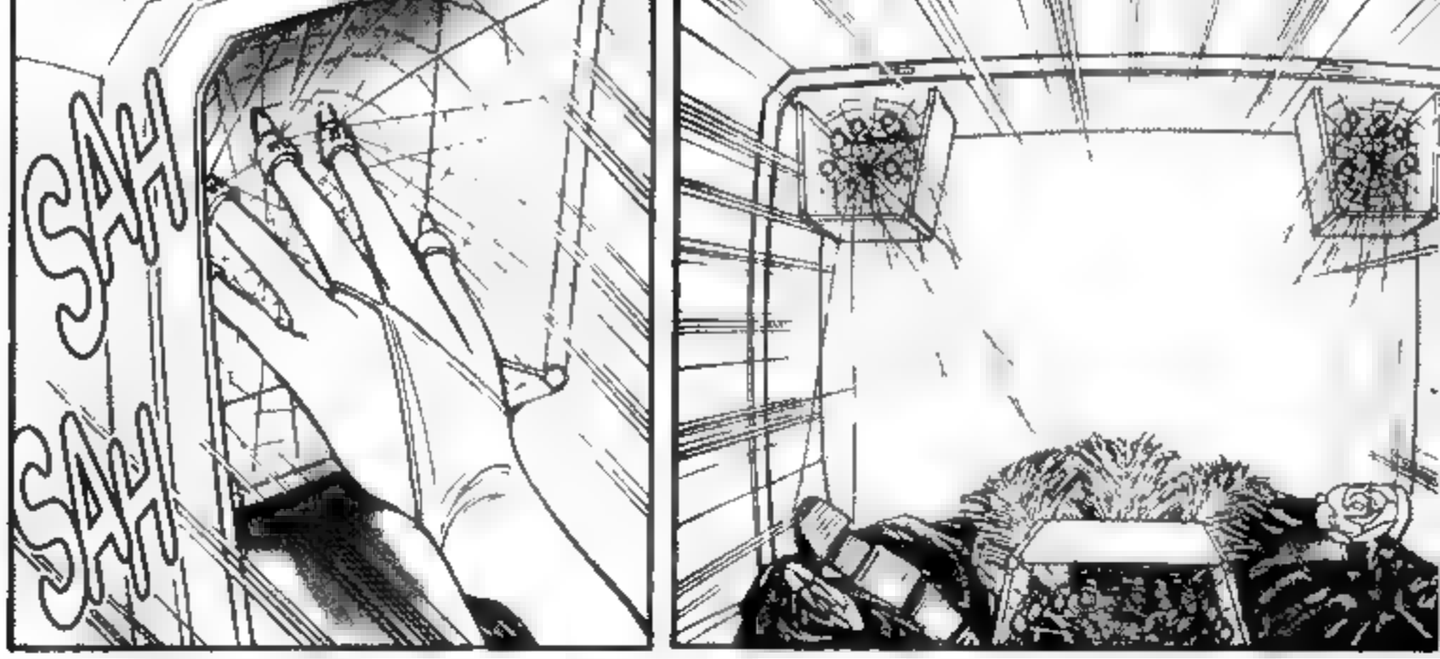
BRAHH

HA-HA


SCHL


CLAC


VLOM


SAH
SAH

SCHLAC
CLAC
ZOOM
ARLEQUIN!

. .BUT I UNDERSTAND YOUR MOTIVATIONS
AH?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR ILLNESS ...
CLIC
CLIC

AND I DON'T DO ANYTHING USELESS!
... EXACTLY !
YOU DO WHATEVER YOU WANT ... WITHOUT OWING ANYTHING TO ANYONE

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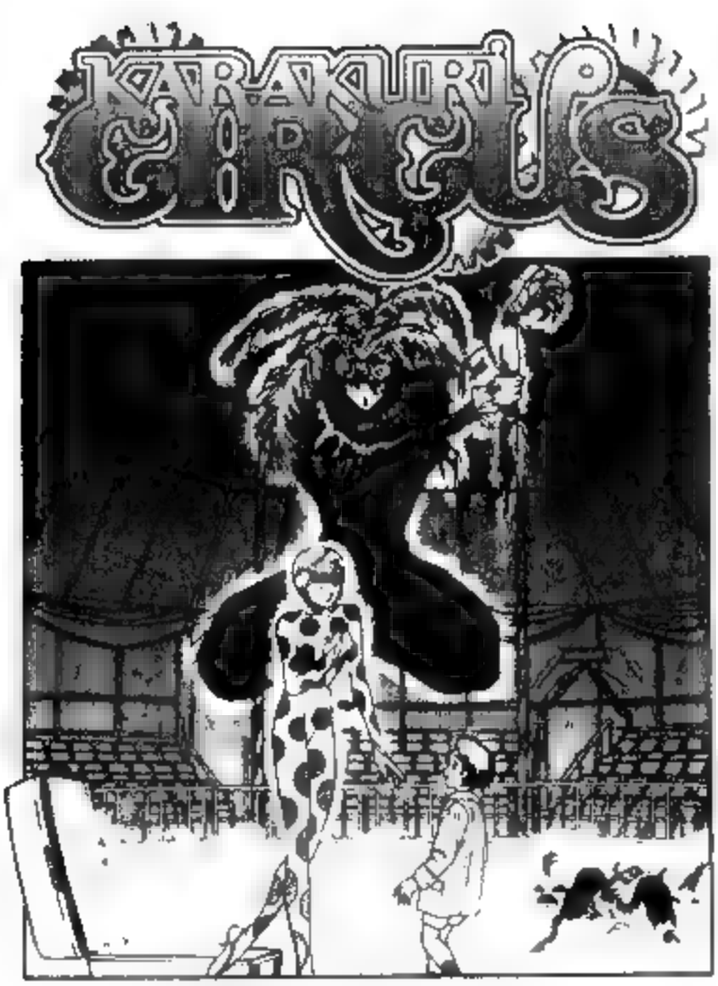
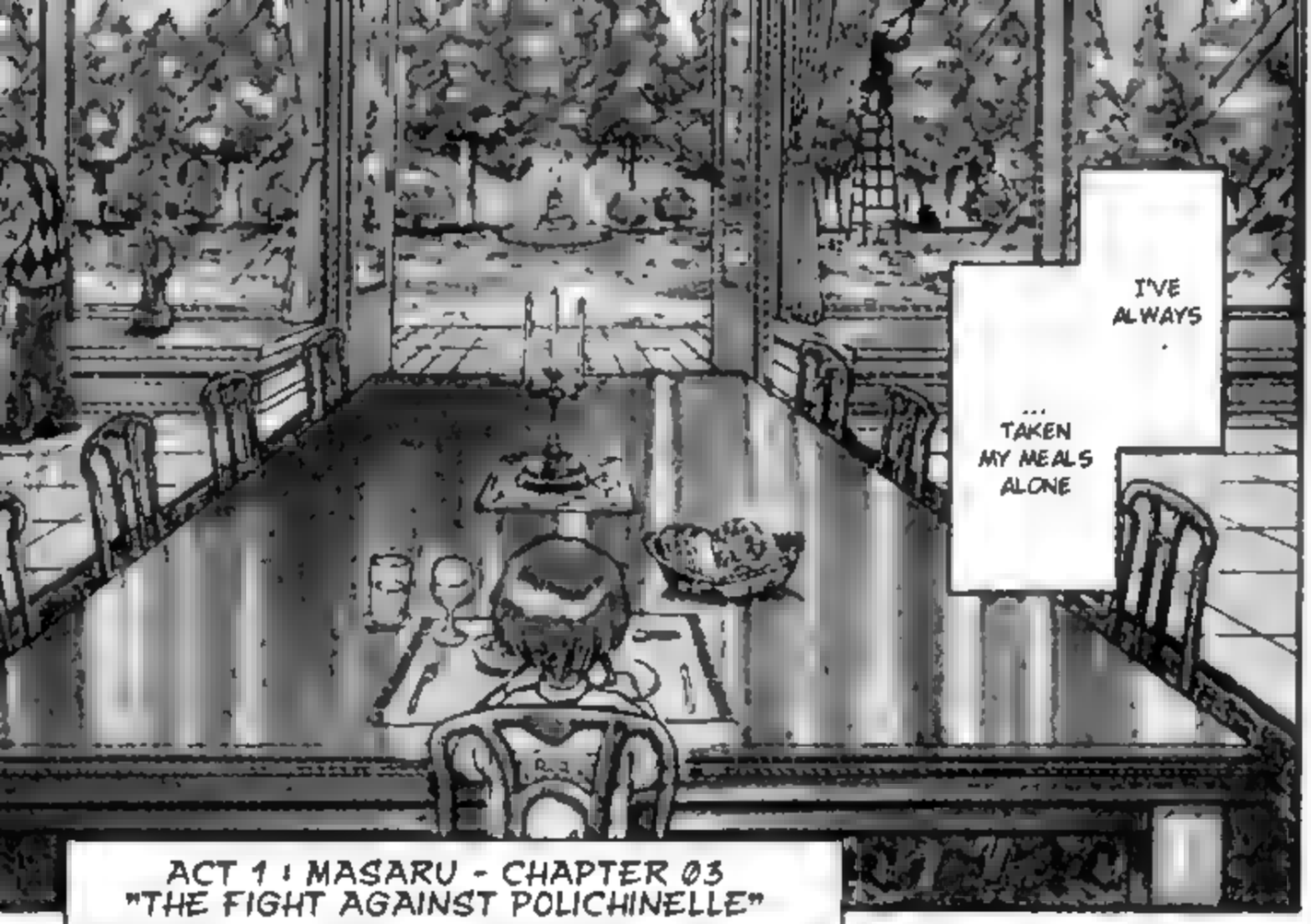
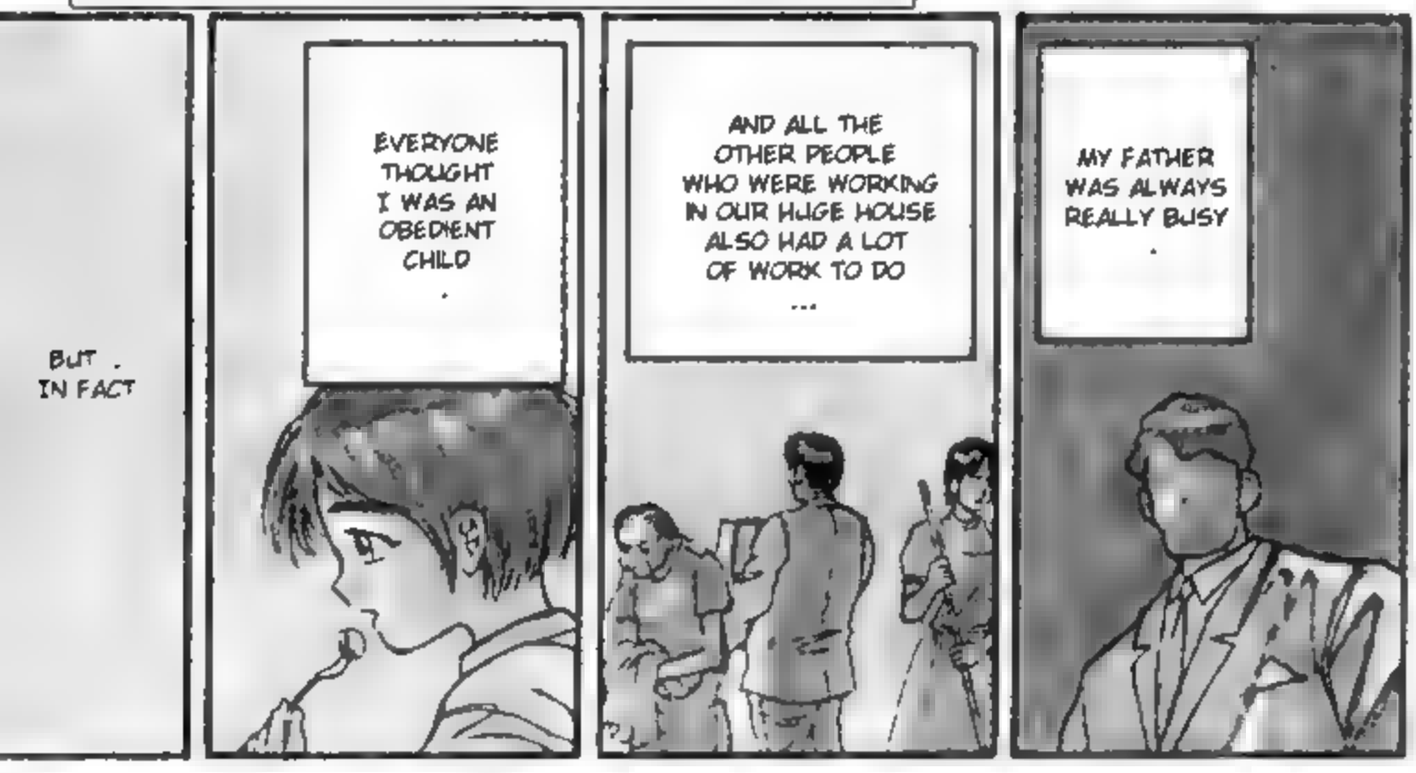




ACT 1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 03
"THE FIGHT AGAINST POLICHINELLE"



ACT 1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 03
"THE FIGHT AGAINST POLICHINELLE"

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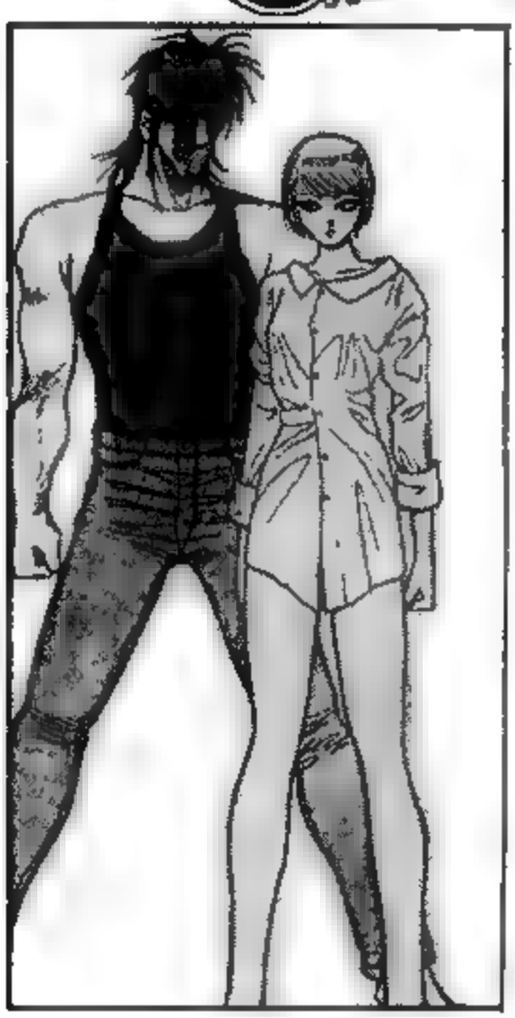
KARAKURI
GIRLS



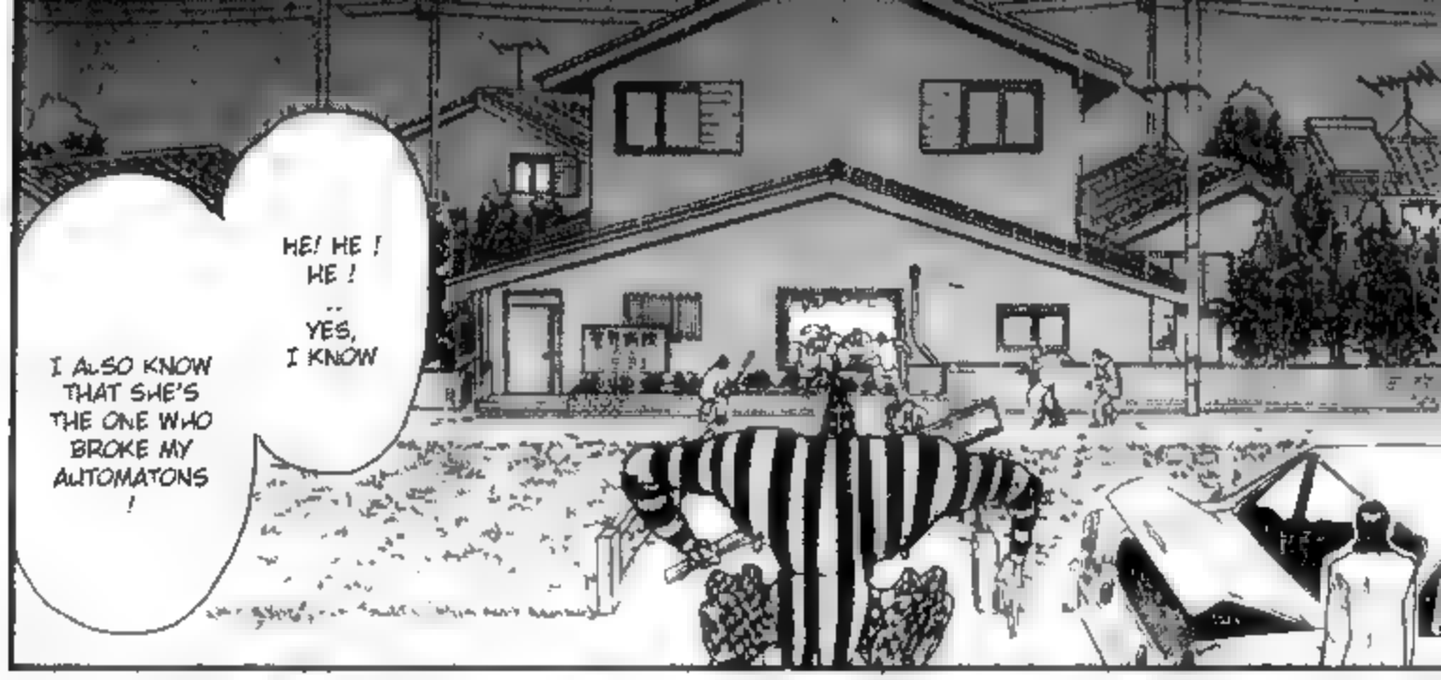
...ASSHOLES!
OOH
YOU'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!

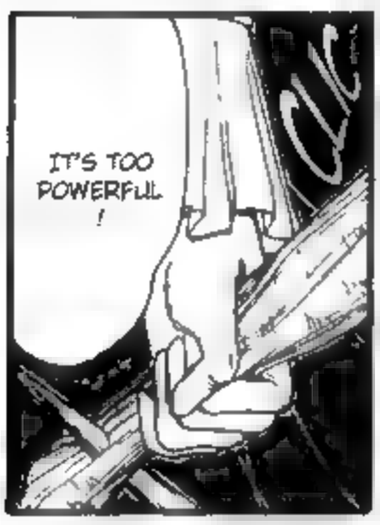
BAM

WOM

I'M IN A BAD MOOD TODAY TOO !!
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED TO COME WITH SO MANY MEN TO ATTACK A POOR KID ?!
SPA
KEEP SMILING !
AND YOU ?
I'M NARUMI KATO
I'M 18
DAA AH
NARUMI ..
..
BLAM

I'LL PROTECT MR MASARU BY MYSELF!
IT WAS SHORT!
ARE YOU CRAZY ?!
MOVE!
SHIROGANE
THEY ALSO HAVE A PUPPET LIKE YOU DO!
HEY, BOSS! THEY'VE GOT A STRANGE PUPPET
Sugano nursing home
SBLIINNG


HE! HE ! HE !
..
YES, I KNOW
I ALSO KNOW THAT SHE'S THE ONE WHO BROKE MY AUTOMATONS !


IT'S TOO POWERFUL !

CLIC
I PAID TEN TIMES THE PRICE I PAID FOR THE LAST AUTOMATONS

BUT .. IT WON'T BE ENOUGH TO BEAT ME !

POLICHINELLE !
LET'S GO ...
BA

..MY CLIENT WILL PAY A LOT FOR THIS MISSION !
MY DEAR POLICHINELLE ... AFTER TAKING CARE OF THE GIRL AND THE KID, I'LL FIX YOU UP ..

ARLEQUIN IS INVINCIBLE !!
WHILE YOU'RE MANIPULATING YOUR PUPPET, THEY ...

I CAN PROTECT MR MASARU BY MYSELF !
LISTEN TO ME! EVEN IF YOUR PUPPET IS STRONG, THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM!

IT'S NOT GOOD TO BE ALONE

..NO!

SHIROGANE

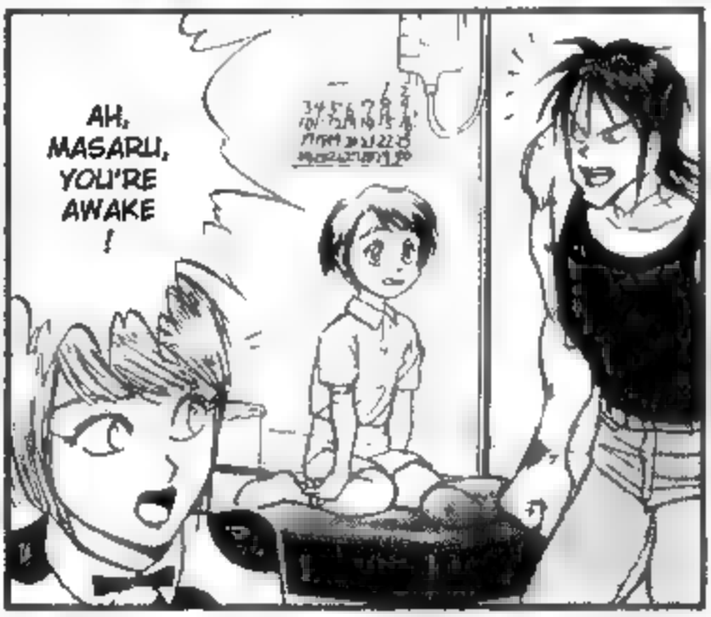
DASH! THE DOCTOR !
AAAHH !!

HEY! I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THAT!

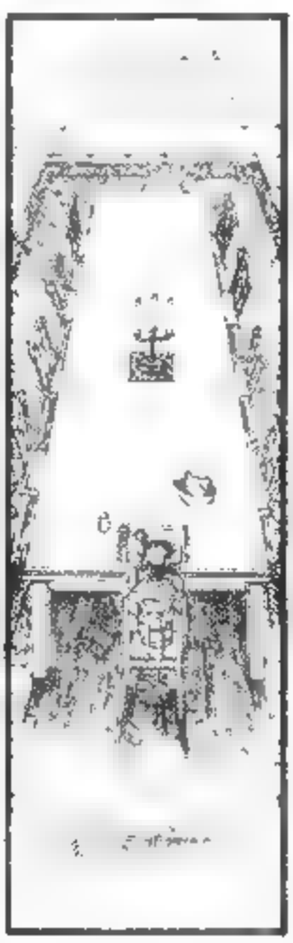
...!

TAKE CARE OF HIM! I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP !

GLA GLAGLA
AGLAGLA


AH, MASARU, YOU'RE AWAKE !

I BEG OF YOU!
NO! I DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE ALONE !



STAY HIDDEN HERE.

I'M HERE MR MASARU !
I'LL PROTECT YOU !

ALONE!
DON'T LEAVE ME ...
AH!
DON'T WORRY .. I'LL COME BACK!
ARLEQUIN !!
... ...
RLOM
RLOM
RLOM
RLOM
RLOM

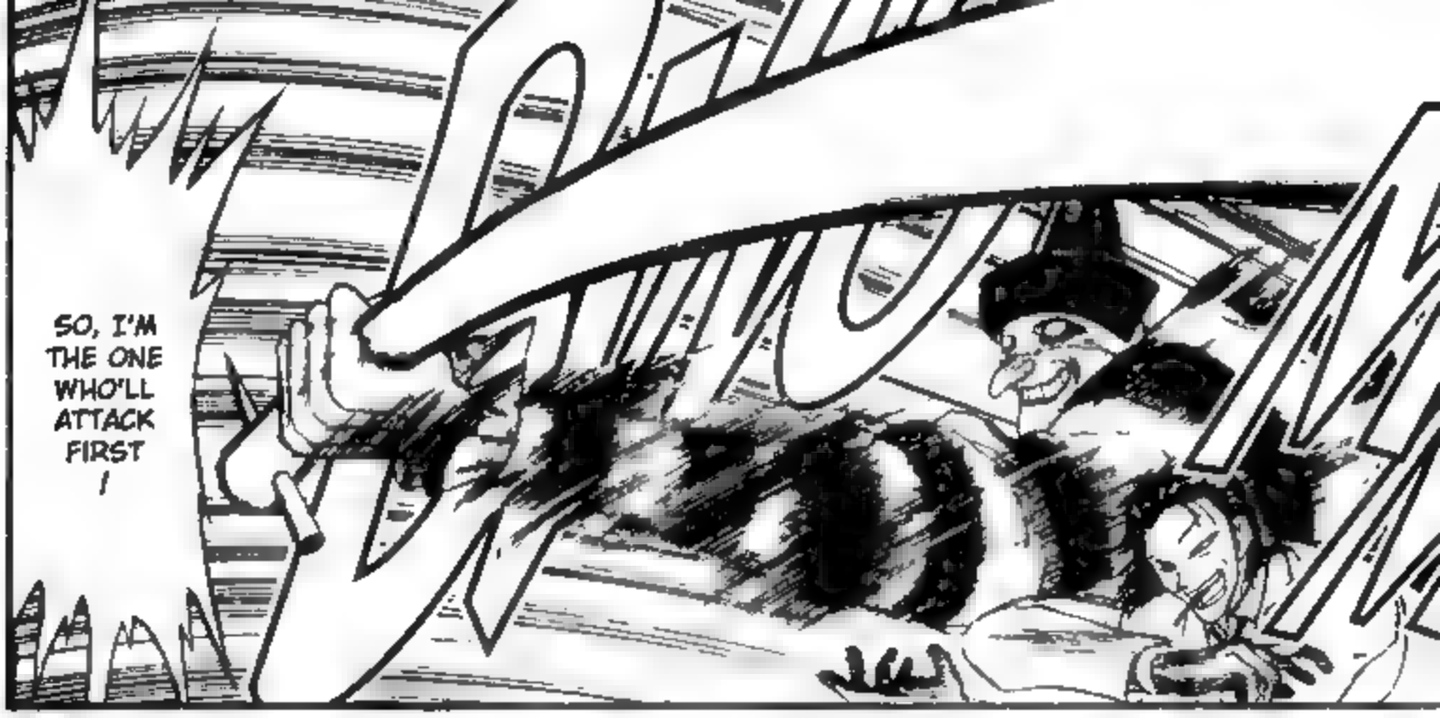
RLOW

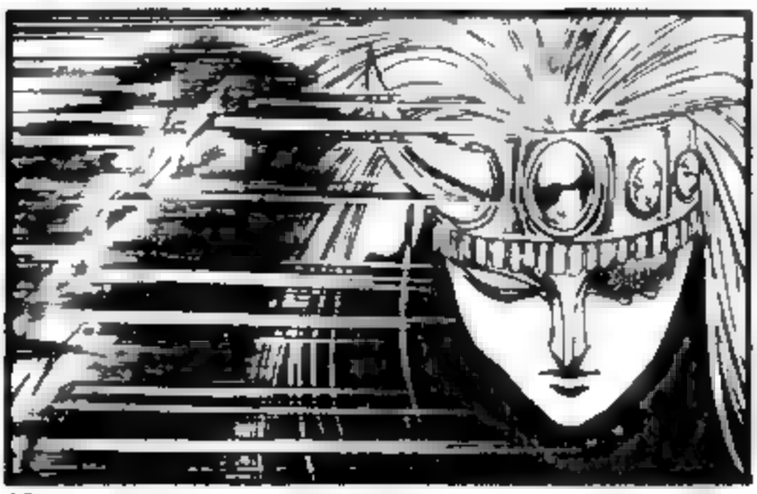
ZZAN

SPAT

NOT BAD!
IT EASILY DODGED POLICHINELLE'S ATTACK!

I'M A HIRED KILLER. I KILL PEOPLE WITH MY PUPPET
... I'D LIKE TO FIGHT AGAINST YOU ..
YOU SEE ... I'M INTERESTED IN YOUR PUPPET
YOU WANT TO PROTECT THAT KID, DON'T YOU ?
BUT, I'VE GOT A MISSION TO ACCOMPLISH ... SO, YOU CAN'T REFUSE!
PLIC
PERFECT!
DON'T WORRY, MR...
ARLEQUIN CAN'T BE BEATEN!


SO, I'M THE ONE WHO'LL ATTACK FIRST !



HE' HE' HE' POLICHINELLE'S BLUDGEON CAN DESTROY A WALL' SHE WON'T RESIST FOR A LONG TIME'

BOUM

KAAA

WHAT ?!
IMPOSSIBLE
THAT PUPPET S A REAL MONSTER !
POLICHINELLE, BE CAREFUL !

SPA
TAN TAN
TAN TAN
TAN TAN
TAN TAN
TAN TAN
TAN
TAN TAN TAN
DAH
RRRLON

SSAHH
THAT GIRL'S PUPPET CAN PREVENT HIM FROM MOVING FORWARD
...
AND ONLY WITH ONE HAND!!
...IT'S MARKING TIME!
LOOK AT WHAT THE PUPPET YOUR GRANDFATHER GAVE ME IS ABLE TO DO
...
TON
ZAN
ZAN
TON
LOOK, MR MASARU
TAC TAC TAC
CLIC
...
POLICHINELLE, PROTECT YOURSELF!
THE ART OF FIGHTING!

CRACK
THE DARK NOVEL

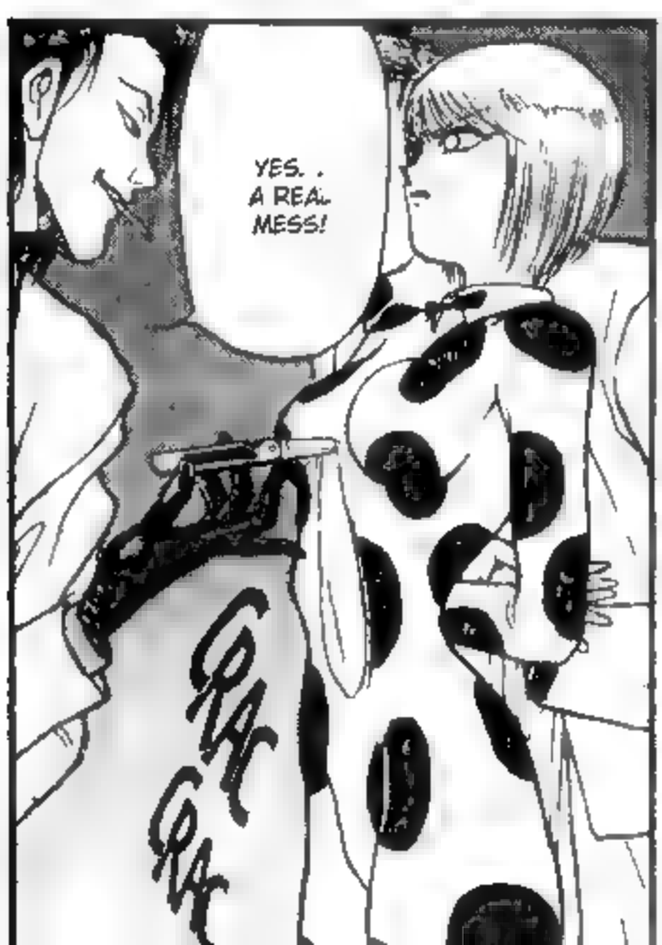
SWIRLING TIGER!
BRRAM

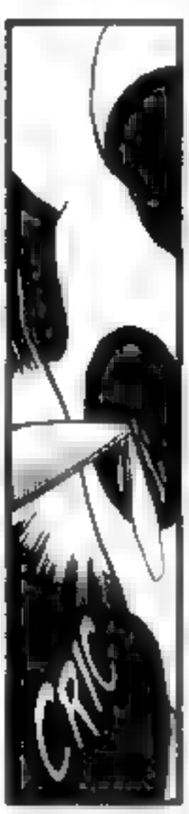
THAT PUPPET IS NOT LIKE THE OTHERS I'VE MET
SHE COMPLETELY DESTROYED POLICHINELLE

BUT

MR MASARU !!
SHIROGANE! HELP!

EXCUSE ME, DARLING. . BUT THE ONLY THING I WANT IS THE KID!
DAH
YOU ...


YES. . A REAL MESS!
CRAC CRAC

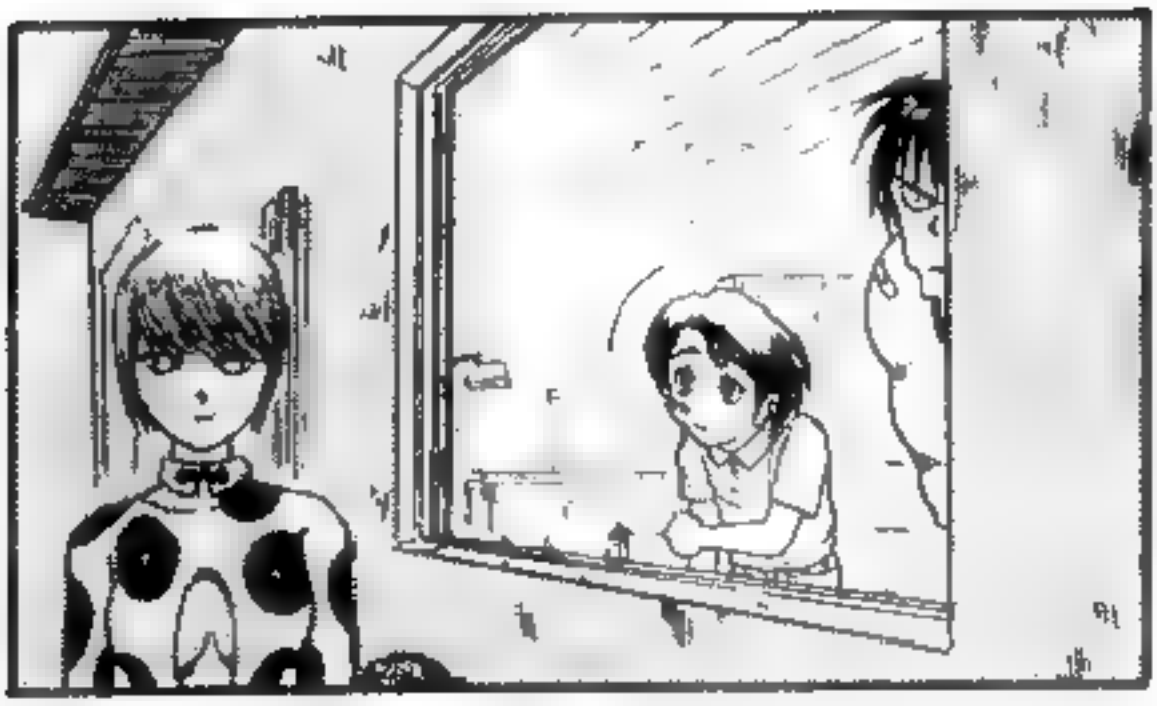

CRIC

WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH HER, BOSS? IT WOULD GET MESSY IF WE KILL HER, DON'T YOU THINK SO ?
... NN !
GHH

BAM
LET HER ..
STOP ..
TO WHAT WAS GOING ON BEHIND ME
THAT I DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION .
I WAS SO CONCENTRATED ON ARLEQUIN
HOW DARE YOU?!!
TAN TAN
EXCUS ME
ME MAGA KU
KILL THEM BOTH !
TOO BAD, THE POLICE ARE GOING TO BE HERE SOON, SO ..

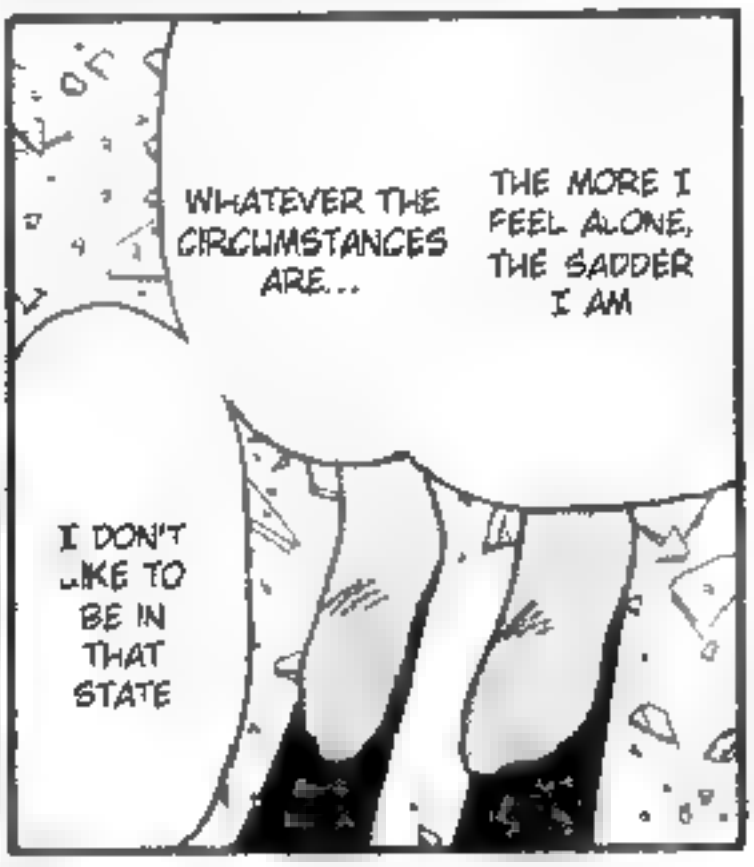
YOU MAKE ME SICK!
GO!
UH!
BAM!
KAH

LIF
IT'S NOT MY LUCKY DAY!
AH, DASH!
MR MASARU! HOW ARE YOU?!
VRRROOM
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, YOU ...
. . SEE YOU NEXT TIME!
I COULDN'T WIN ..
...BY MYSELF
I'M SO SORRY ..
...MR MASARU
ARE YOU OKAY ?
PFF... HE RAN AWAY
... YES ..

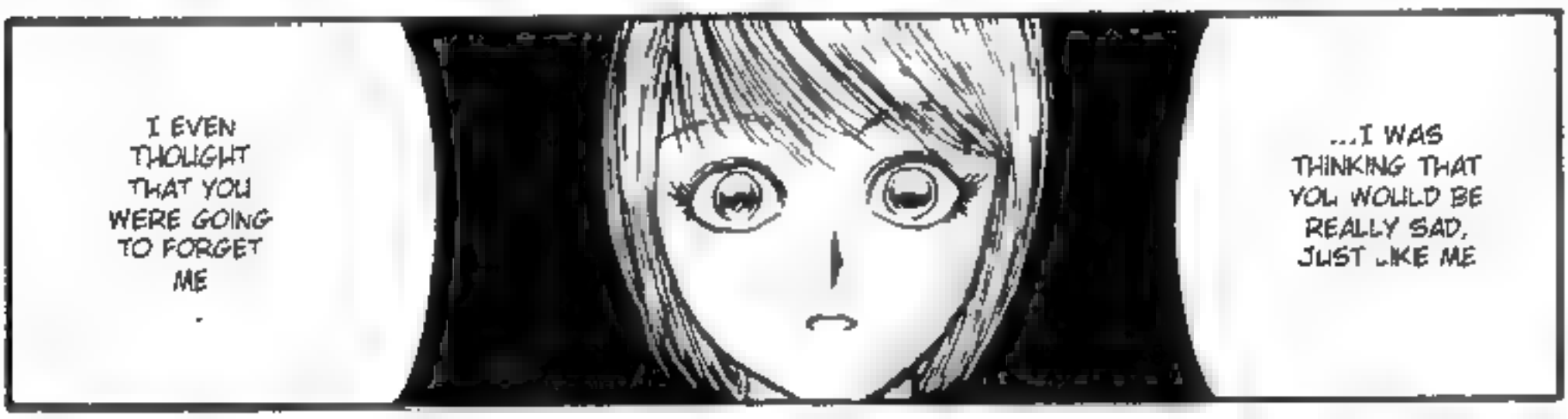


OF COURSE
THAT'S WHAT I TOLD YOU !
IT'S NOT THAT IMPORTANT, NARUMI

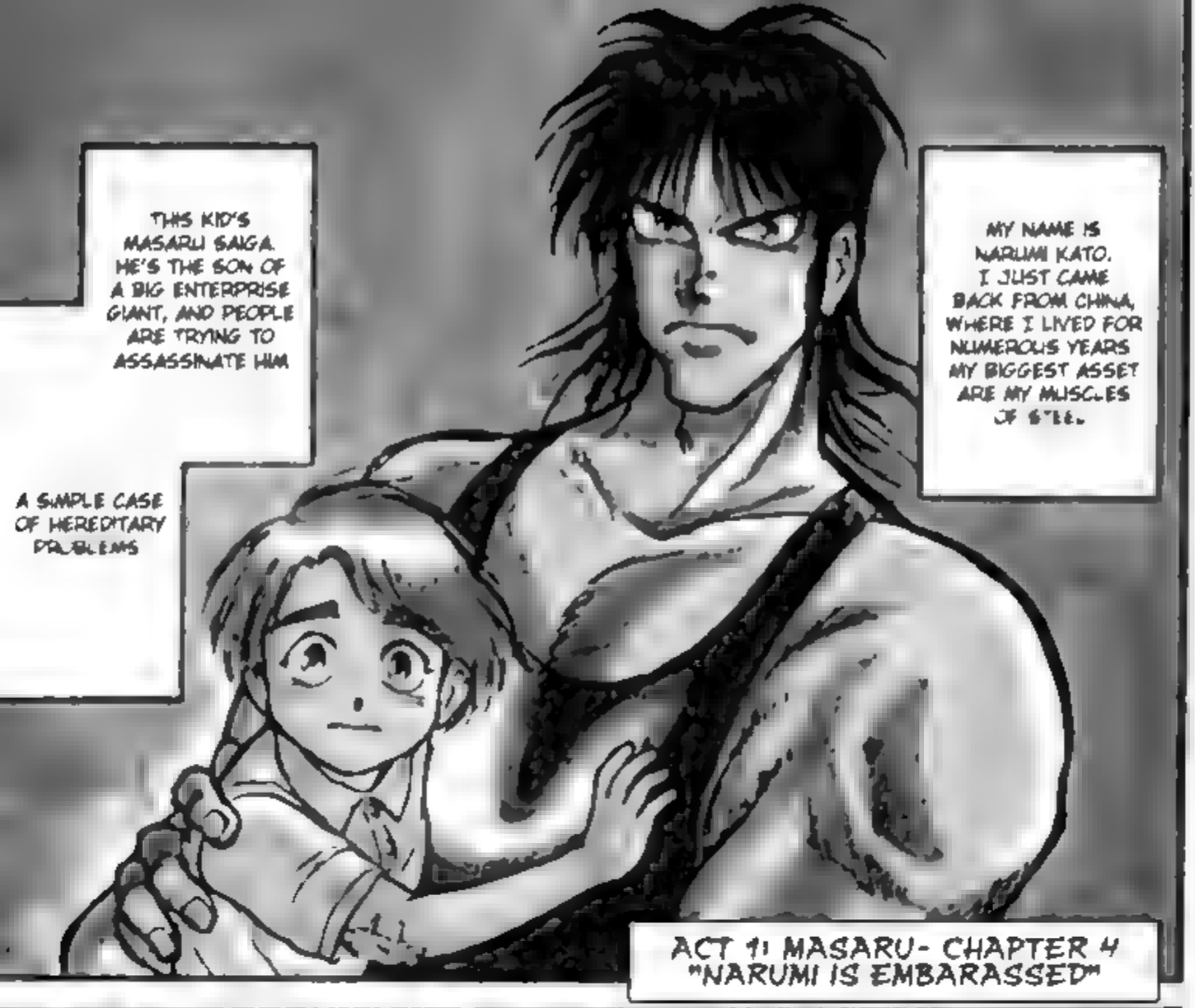
A SHORT WHILE AGO, EVERY TIME YOU SAID THAT YOU WANTED TO TAKE CARE OF HIM BY YOURSELF


WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE...
THE MORE I FEEL ALONE, THE SADDER I AM
I DON'T LIKE TO BE IN THAT STATE

SO
..I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE
YOU KNOW


I EVEN THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE GOING TO FORGET ME
...I WAS THINKING THAT YOU WOULD BE REALLY SAD, JUST LIKE ME

I DON'T LIKE BEING ALONE!
THAT'S WHY



ACT 1: MASARU - CHAPTER 4 "NARUMI IS EMBARASSED"

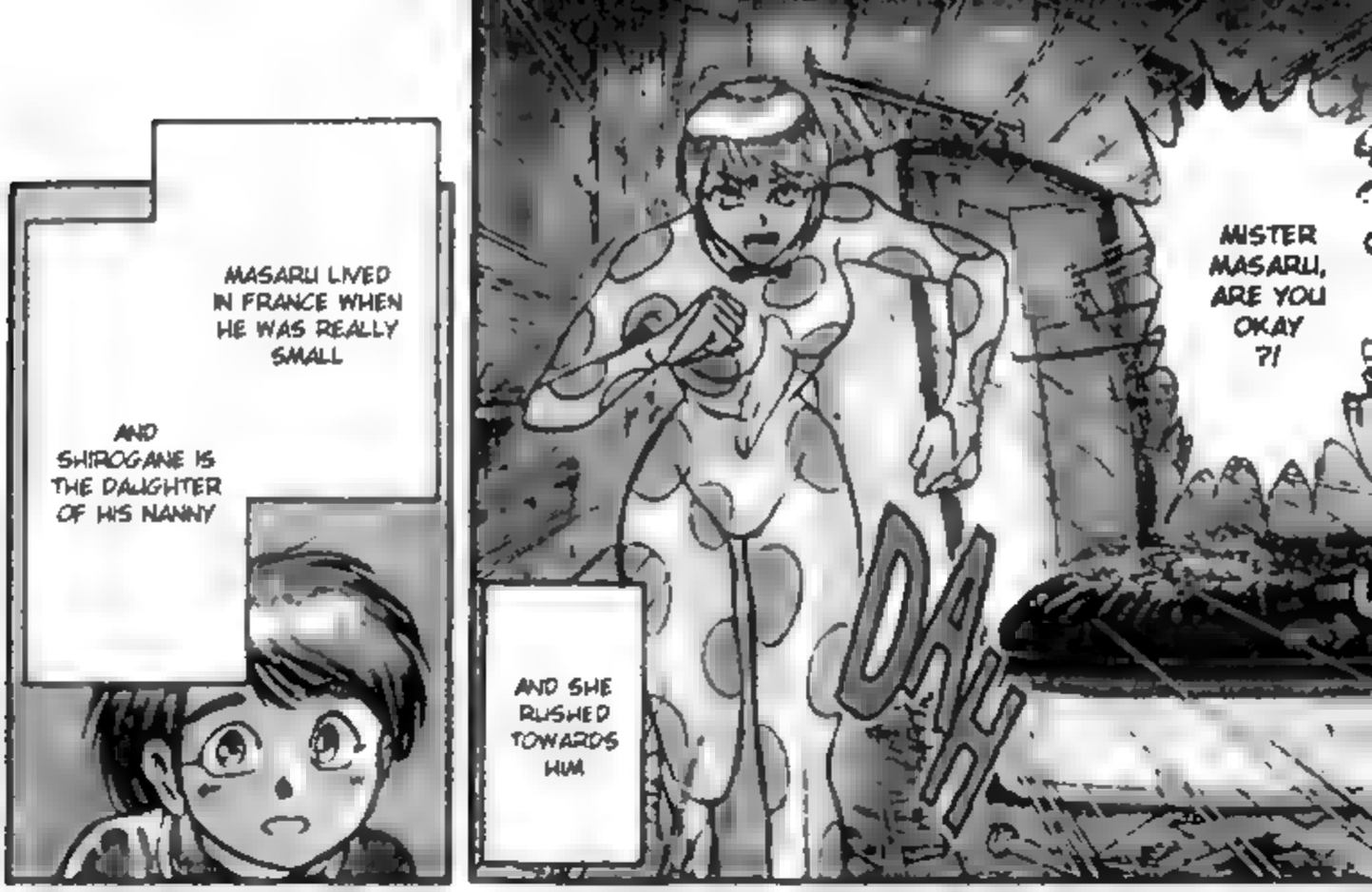
SCANNED BY VENSU

SHE ISN'T JAPANESE, MASARU TOLD ME HER NAME WAS SHIROGANE AS FOR HER PUPPET
SSAH
THANK YOU!
ARLEQUIN
THERE IT IS

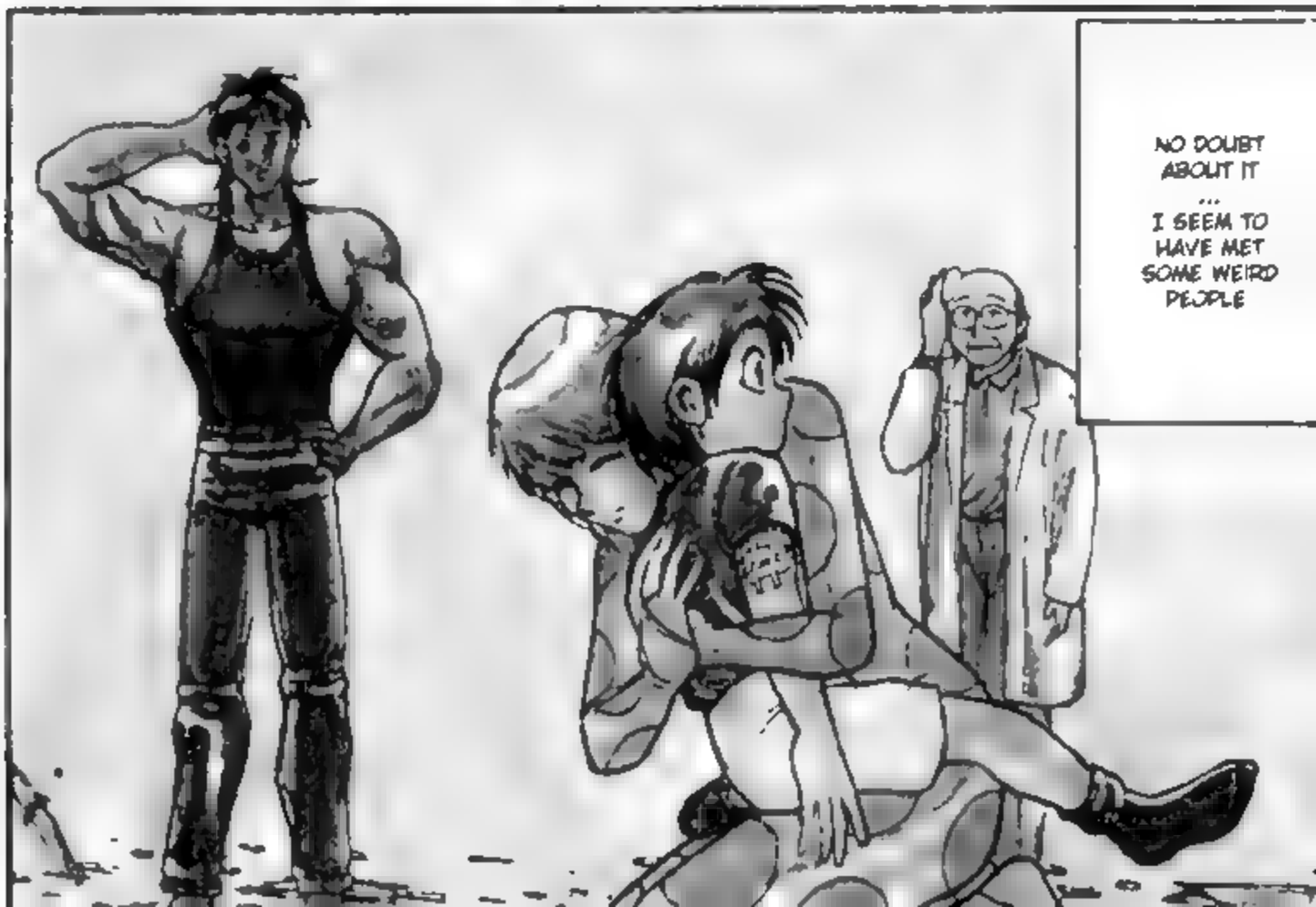
THIS GIRL, WHO'S APPARENTLY A STAR IN THE CIRCUS, HAD EASILY ARRANGED THIS IMMENSE PUPPET INTO A SUITCASE
SCHLAK

FACED WITH ALL THESE UNEXPECTED EVENTS, I THINK I'M AT THE POINT OF CRACKING.

IT'S AS IF MY HAND BECAME A LADLE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT


MASARU LIVED IN FRANCE WHEN HE WAS REALLY SMALL
AND SHIROGANE IS THE DAUGHTER OF HIS NANNY
AND SHE RUSHED TOWARDS HIM
DAH!
MISTER MASARU, ARE YOU OKAY ?!

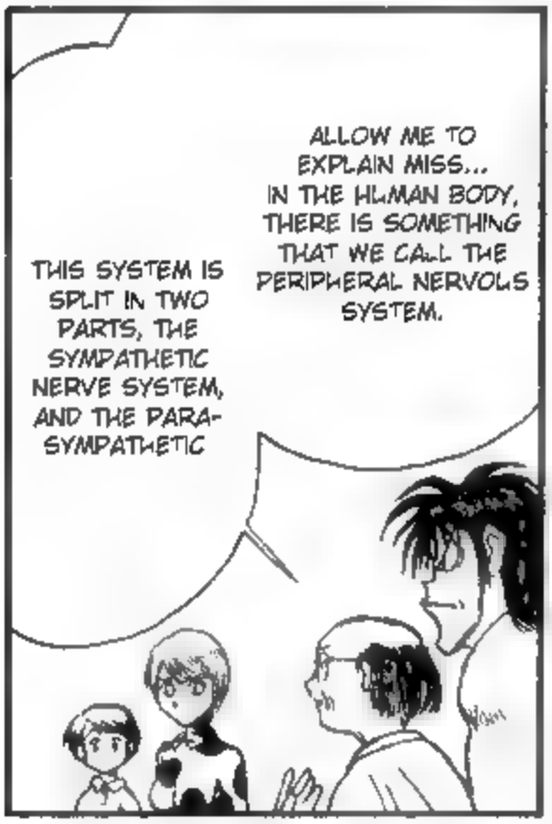
THIS IS WHY SHE FEELS SO OBLIGATED TO PERFORM HER MISSION: TO PROTECT MASARU WITH HER LIFE.
IT SEEMS THAT MASARU'S GRANDFATHER HAD DONE A LOT FOR HER AND HER MOTHER.


NO DOUBT ABOUT IT
...
I SEEM TO HAVE MET SOME WEIRD PEOPLE

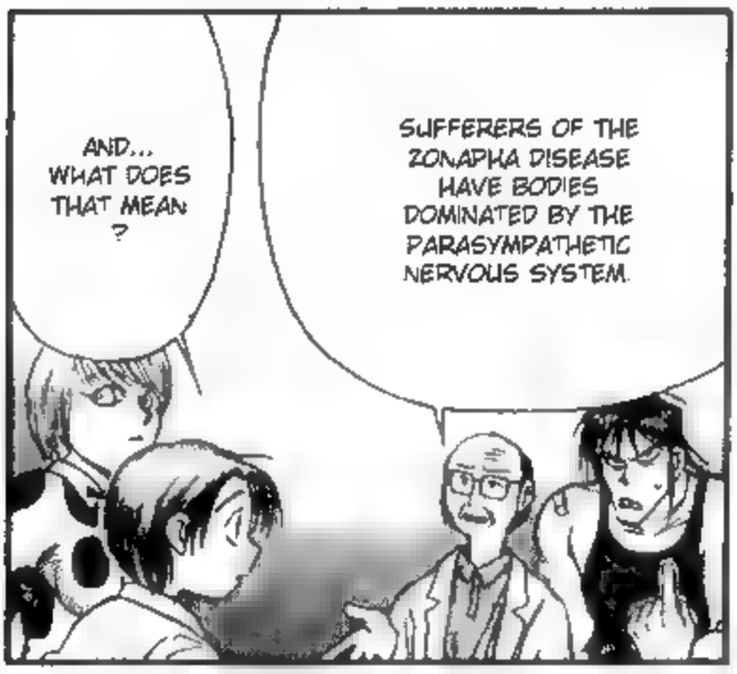
IT'S ALRIGHT.
AT LEAST YOU WERE NOT HURT.
IT'S MY FAULT THAT EVERYTHING WAS BROKEN!
I'M SORRY ...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE.
... EVERYTHING WAS DESTROYED.
AND IN THE CLINIC TOO ...
IN THE TRAIN ...
... YOU'RE GOING TO LAUGH!
AND THEN ...
... YOU'LL STOP CRYING!
TO START ...
AHH

LISTEN TO ME! FIRST OF ALL, IF THOSE PEOPLE ARE INHUMANE ...
IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT!
SECOND, YOU'LL GO TO THE COPS AND ASK FOR HELP! THAT'S THE BEST SOLUTION
BUT .
BECAUSE OF ME ...
GAHH
IF YOU DON'T LAUGH IMMEDIATELY, I'M GOING TO DIIEEE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!
AND . THIRDLY ...
YEAH DOC ... UNFORTUNATELY ...
I HAVE THE SAME DISEASE AS MY GRANDFATHER!
A DISEASE ?
NARUMI ... YOU AS WELL ?!

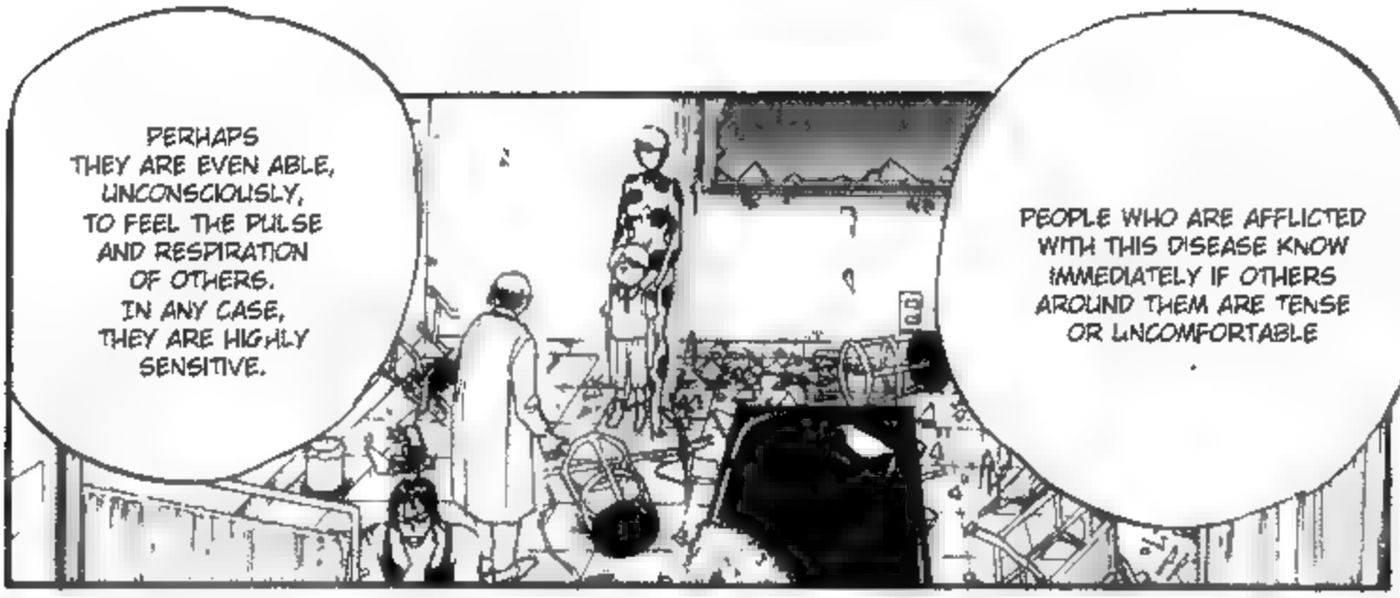
A SYNDROME THAT IS PROVOKED BY THE RECOGNITION OF THE SUPERIORITY OF THE PARASYMPATHETIC NERVES OF A THIRD PARTY
...
IT'S BETTER KNOWN AS THE "ZONAPHA SYNDROME"


ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN MISS... IN THE HUMAN BODY, THERE IS SOMETHING THAT WE CALL THE PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.
THIS SYSTEM IS SPLIT IN TWO PARTS, THE SYMPATHETIC NERVE SYSTEM, AND THE PARA-SYMPATHETIC

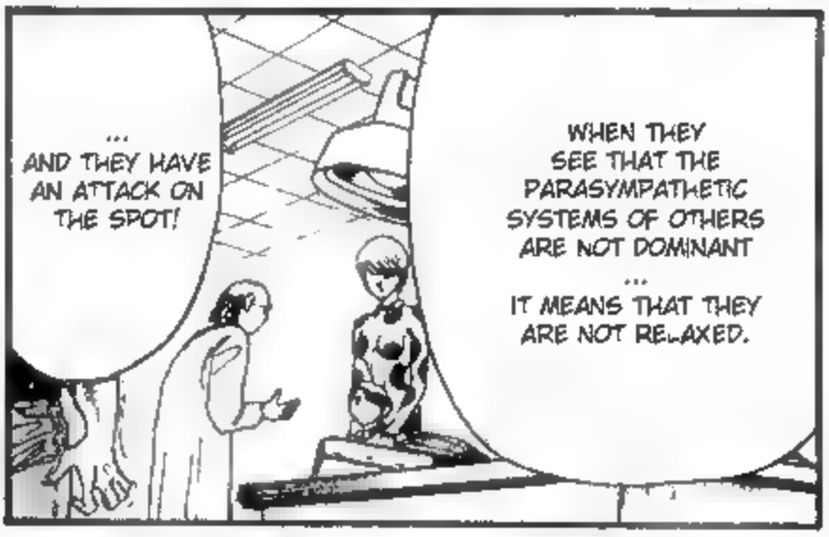
STOP! THIS DISEASE ISN'T CONTAGIOUS!
GALALA
SPLATCH
SPLATCH


AND... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ?
SUFFERERS OF THE ZONAPHA DISEASE HAVE BODIES DOMINATED BY THE PARASYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM.

WHEN THE OTHER SYSTEM IS ACTIVE, WE ARE RELAXED.
WHEN THE FIRST SYSTEM IS DOMINANT, WE BECOME ACTIVE
..

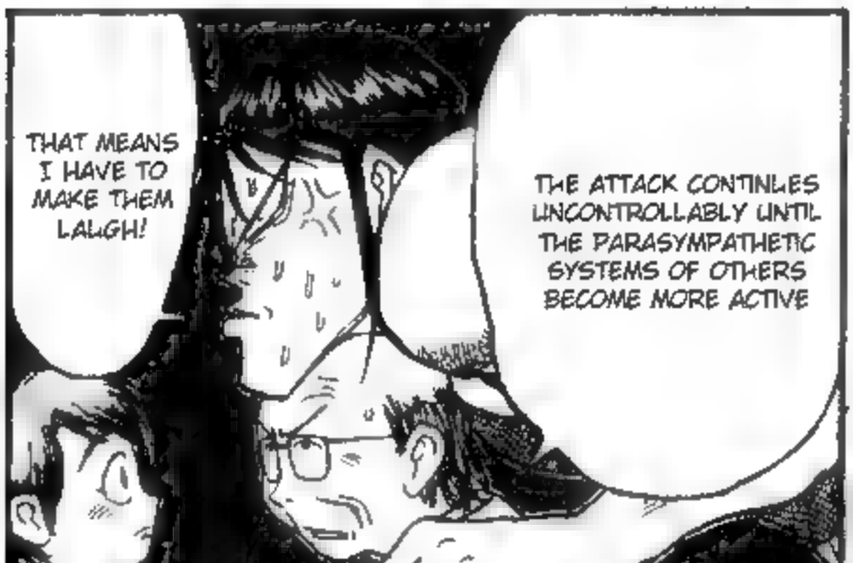

PERHAPS THEY ARE EVEN ABLE, UNCONSCIOUSLY, TO FEEL THE PULSE AND RESPIRATION OF OTHERS. IN ANY CASE, THEY ARE HIGHLY SENSITIVE.
PEOPLE WHO ARE AFFLICTED WITH THIS DISEASE KNOW IMMEDIATELY IF OTHERS AROUND THEM ARE TENSE OR UNCOMFORTABLE

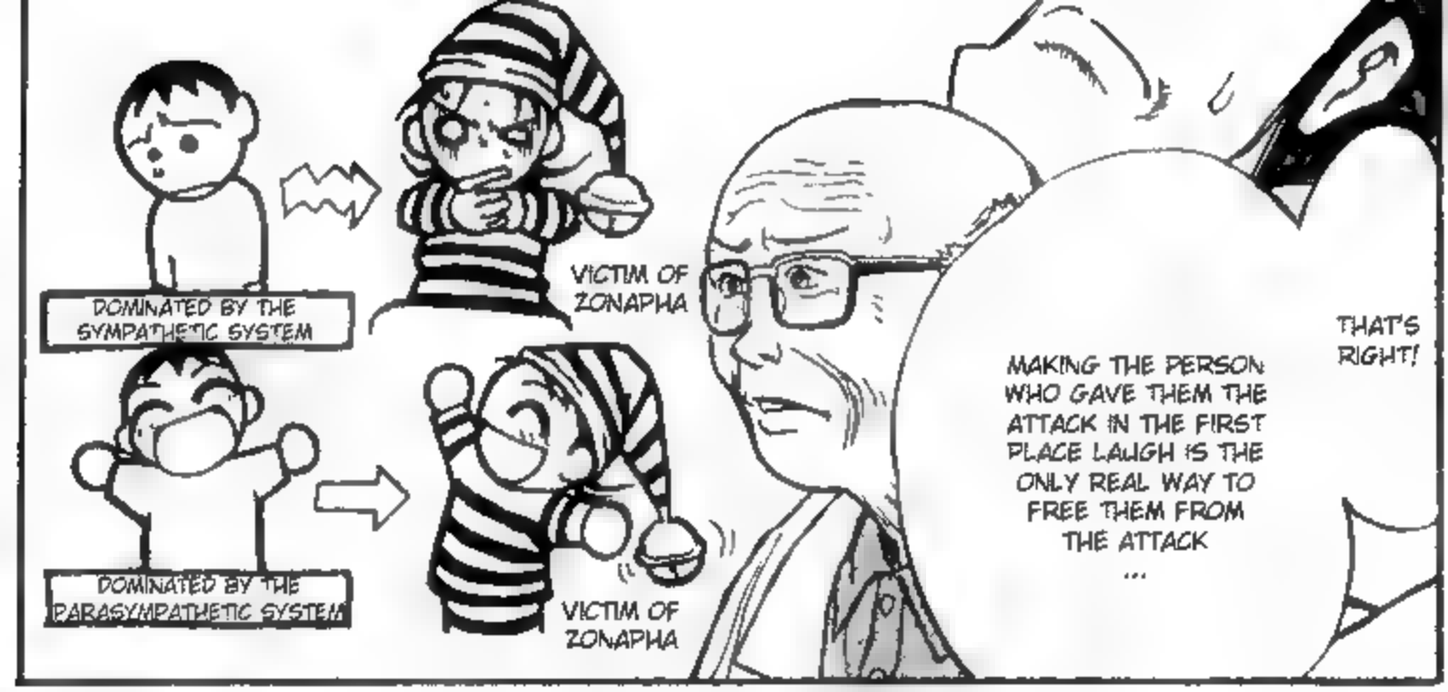
EXACTLY. GENERALLY, WHEN PEOPLE ARE ACTIVE, MOST HUMAN BEINGS HAVE ACTIVE SYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEMS
THE OTHERS DON'T HAVE TO BE TENSE ?


... AND THEY HAVE AN ATTACK ON THE SPOT!
WHEN THEY SEE THAT THE PARASYMPATHETIC SYSTEMS OF OTHERS ARE NOT DOMINANT ... IT MEANS THAT THEY ARE NOT RELAXED.

NO... I NEVER THOUGHT THAT . .
RRR
RRR
MASARU ... DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU THOUGHT I WAS MAKING THIS UP!
I REALLY AM SICK!

AFTER THAT, CONSIDERABLY PAIN SUFFUSES THEIR BODY
DURING AN ATTACK, THE LUNGS OF THE DISEASED CONTRACT VIOLENTLY, AND IT PREVENTS THE.R BREATHING.


THAT MEANS I HAVE TO MAKE THEM LAUGH!
THE ATTACK CONTINUES UNCONTROLLABLY UNTIL THE PARASYMPATHETIC SYSTEMS OF OTHERS BECOME MORE ACTIVE


DOMINATED BY THE SYMPATHETIC SYSTEM
VICTIM OF ZONAPHA
DOMINATED BY THE PARASYMPATHETIC SYSTEM
VICTIM OF ZONAPHA
MAKING THE PERSON WHO GAVE THEM THE ATTACK IN THE FIRST PLACE LAUGH IS THE ONLY REAL WAY TO FREE THEM FROM THE ATTACK ...
THAT'S RIGHT!

IN FACT, HE HAS A NEW AFFLICTION NAMED "ORPHELINE". THERE AREN'T MANY KNOWN CASES OF IT...
... SO WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

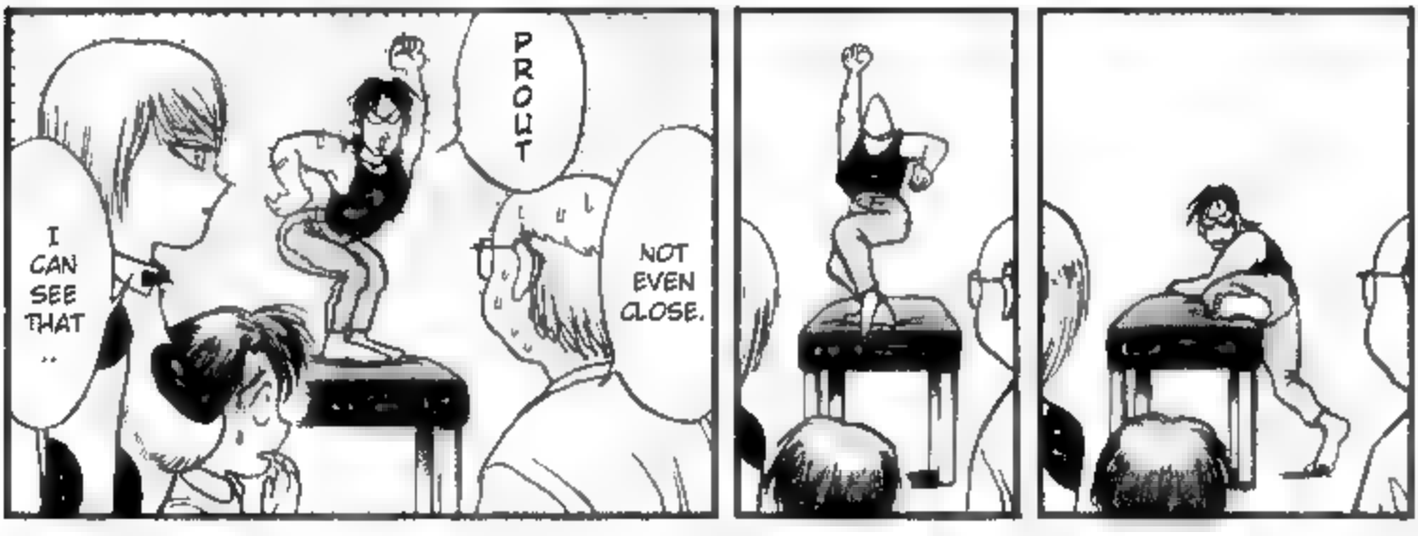
THAT DOESN'T WORK ...
...OR SOMEONE WHO'S RELAXED ?
WHAT IF YOU LOOK AT SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY LAUGHING ...

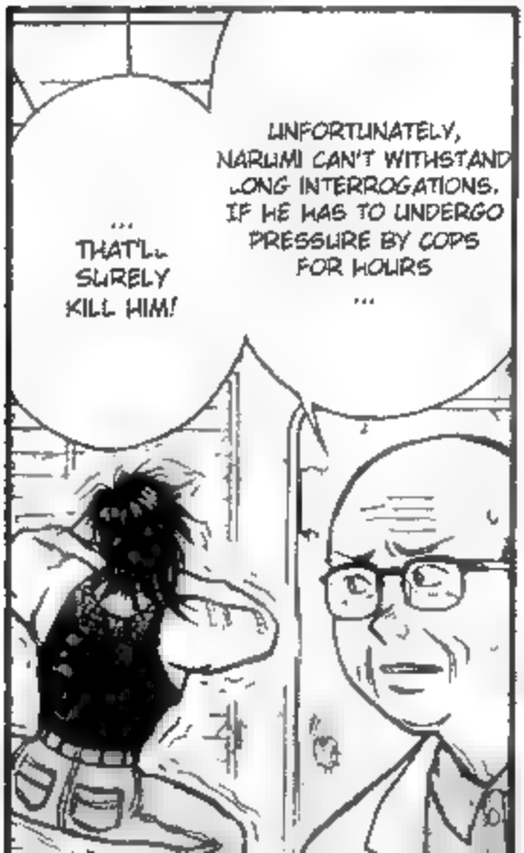
RRR

... KENJIRO!
... YOU'RE HAVING ANOTHER ATTACK ?!

GAAHH... IT'S... GETTING... WORSE... AND WORSE ...
NARUMI'S GRANDFATHER AND I PLAYED MANY GAMES OF GO TOGETHER.

AH!
HIM
..
AND
...
NARUMI
?
HE WAS EXTREMELY TALENTED AT MAKING PEOPLE LAUGH.
AHAHAHA
HA

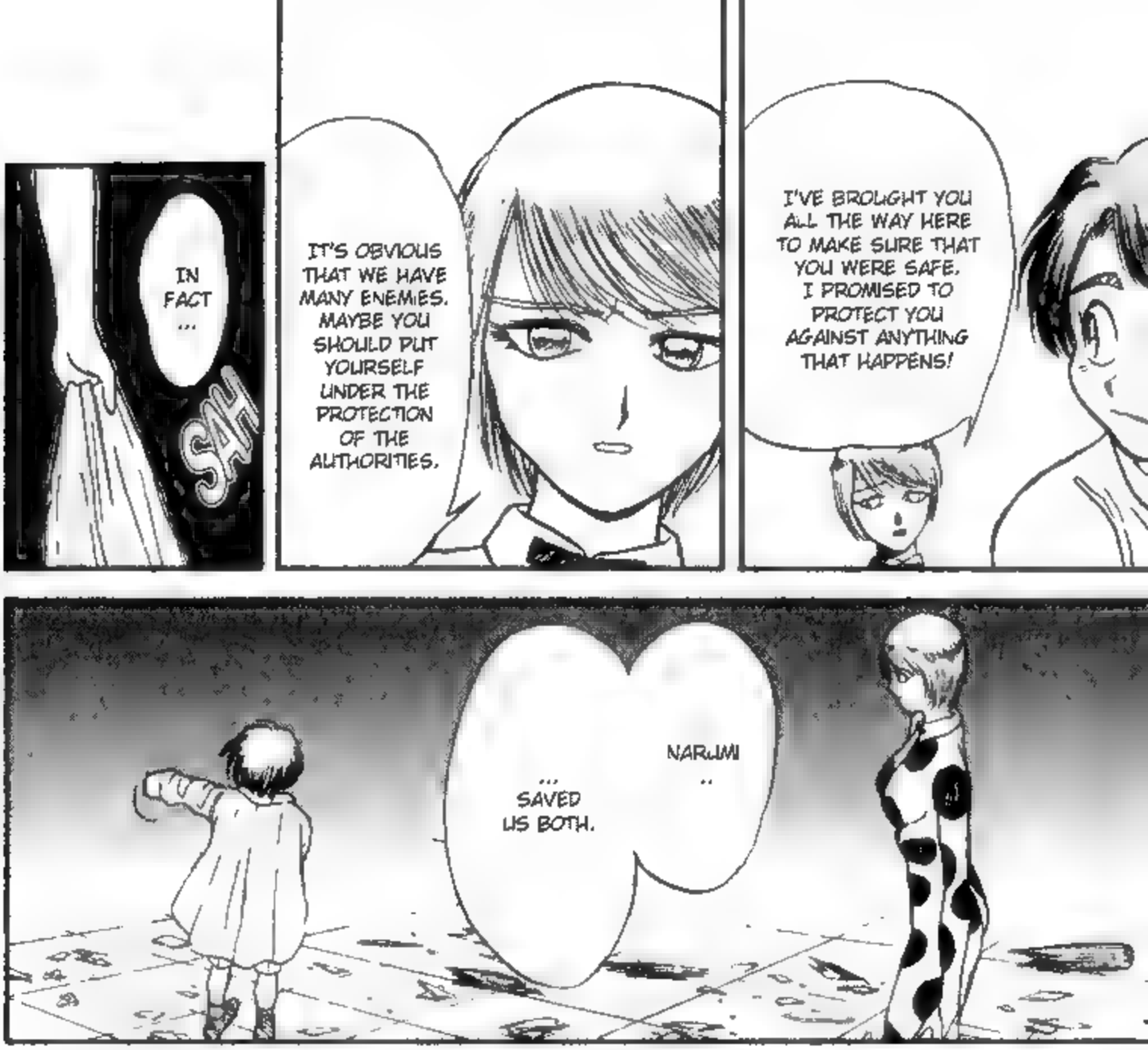

I CAN SEE THAT ..
PROUT
NOT EVEN CLOSE.


...
THAT'LL SURELY KILL HIM!
UNFORTUNATELY, NARUMI CAN'T WITHSTAND LONG INTERROGATIONS. IF HE HAS TO UNDERGO PRESSURE BY COPS FOR HOURS
...

I DON'T WANT TO KEEP CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR OTHERS
...
I THINK I'LL GO TELL MY STORY TO THE POLICE.

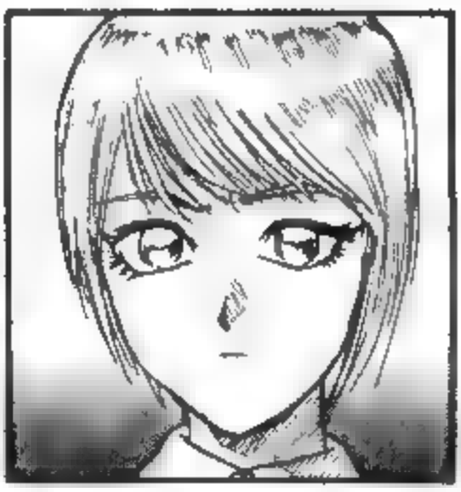
A NEIGHBOUR MUST HAVE CALLED THEM BECAUSE OF THE NOISE.
AH! THE POLICE!
IRRON

SORRY, BUT... I...
... I RARELY LAUGH.
... MAYBE YOU CAN HELP HIM, MISS ?
IF THIS YOUNG MAN DOESN'T LAUGH ...
NARUMI!
... THEY WEREN'T MUCH HELP FROM THE BEGINNING!
IN ANY CASE...
MISTER MASARU! WAIT!
NARUMI, I'M COMING WITH YOU!
I'LL LEAVE YOU TO THE POLICE.
IT BETTER ...
I'M GOING TO TRY ... TO MAKE SOME OTHER PEOPLE LAUGH ...
I'M GOING TO LEAVE NOW.
EXCUSE ME DOCTOR ...
WILL THAT WORK ?


IN FACT ...
SAH
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT WE HAVE MANY ENEMIES. MAYBE YOU SHOULD PUT YOURSELF UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE AUTHORITIES.
I'VE BROUGHT YOU ALL THE WAY HERE TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU WERE SAFE. I PROMISED TO PROTECT YOU AGAINST ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS!

NARUMI ..
... SAVED US BOTH.

.. DON'T YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR THEM AS WELL?
IF SOMEONE DOES YOU A KIND DEED ..

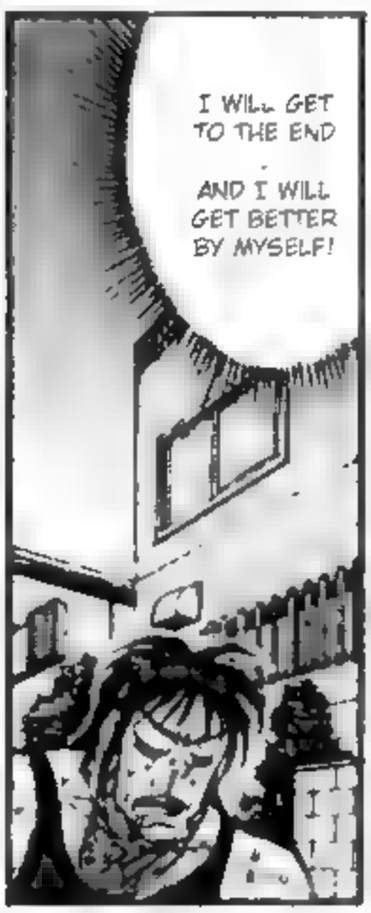


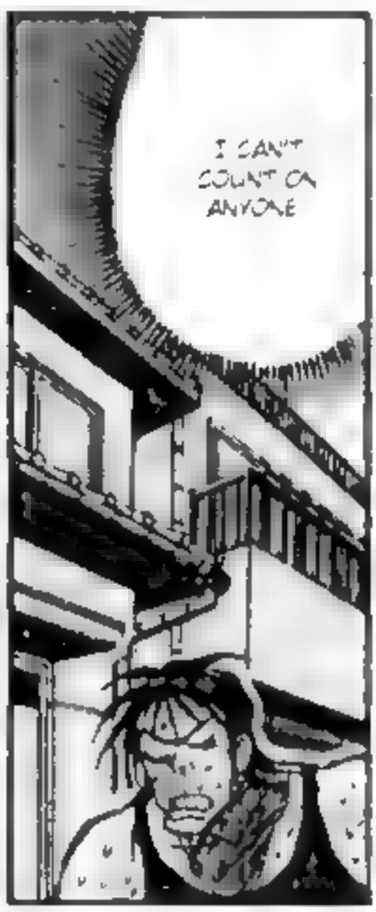
I'M NOT STRONG ...
BUT ...

MY PASS-WORD IS ...
UMM ... YEAH ... WELL ...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I HOPE WE'LL MEET EACH OTHER AGAIN.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR THIS MESS.
THANK YOU!
AH... YES!
LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
WHAT?! YOU THINK THAT I CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THIS PROBLEM BY MYSELF?! YOU LITTLE BRAT!
GAH
IT WAS MY PLEASURE!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, DOCTOR ...
THIS BOY HAS SOME RARE QUALITIES ... LET HIM BE PROTECTED BY THE POLICE. HE DESERVES IT.
MISTER MASARU!
DAN

THAT YOUNG LADY . . . AND THAT BOY .
... ARE REALLY QUITE CHARMING.

AND NOW I HAVE A TERRIBLE MIGRAINE!
AHHH IT HURTS! IT FEELS LIKE AN ELEPHANT IS SITTING ON MY CHEST!
ZOÏNG


I WILL GET TO THE END . AND I WILL GET BETTER BY MYSELF!

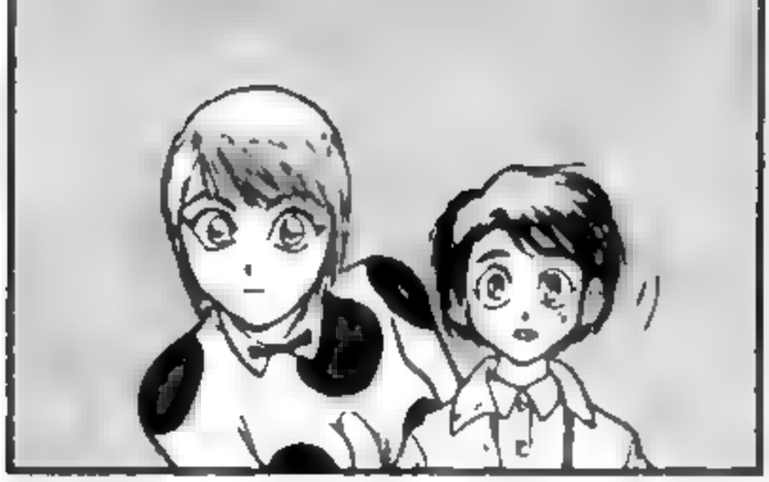

I CAN'T COUNT ON ANYONE

HMM
HMM

DAAHH
SUPERMARKET
ZE BEST
OPEN

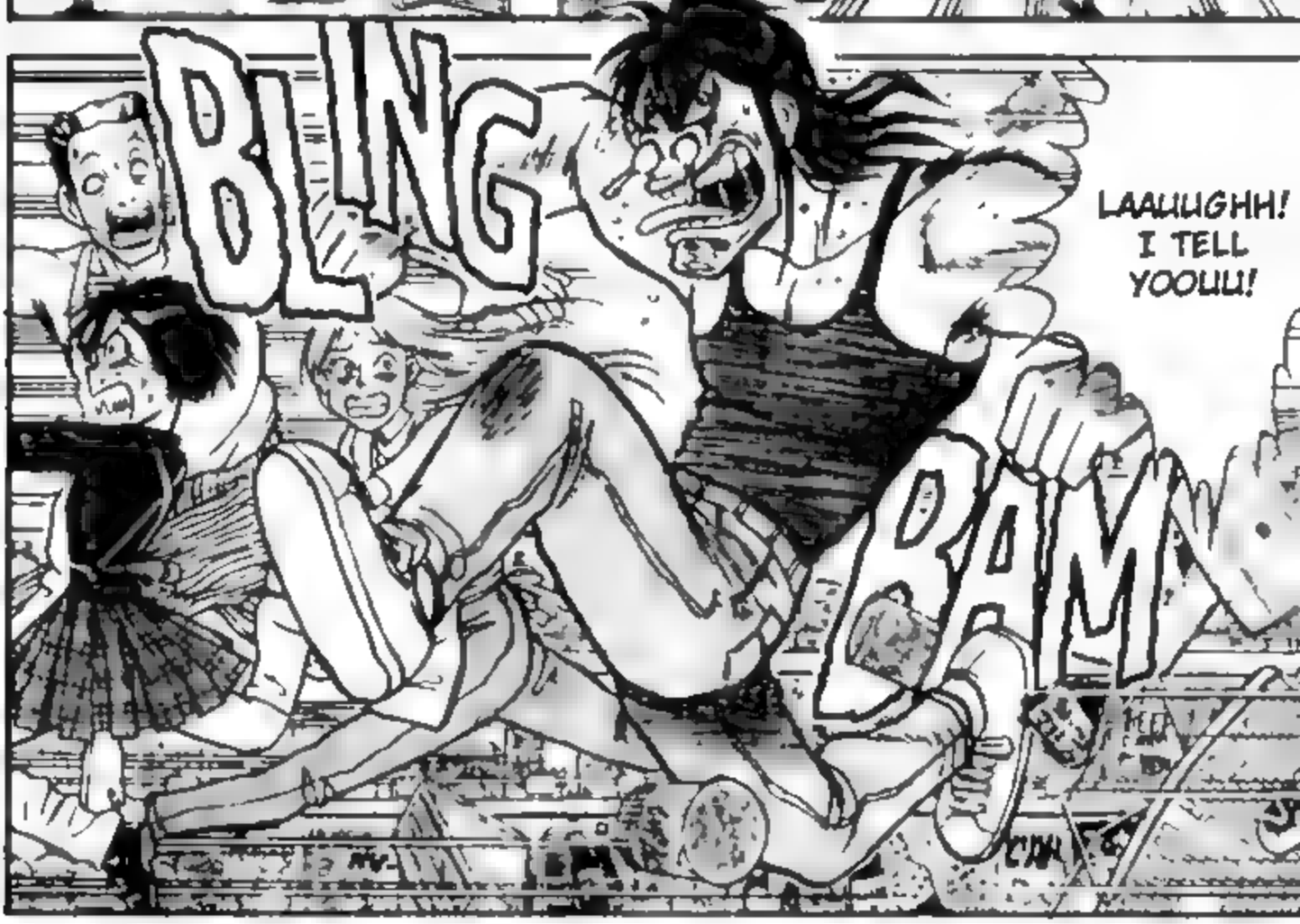
I HAVE TO MAKE SOMEONE LAUGH
ANYBODY!
BUT... IT'S ALREADY REALLY LATE AT LEAST 10PM! WHERE AM I GOING TO FIND PEOPLE ?

OOHH!
GOOD EVENING ...
CLAC
GO AHEAD! LAAUGGH!
SECURITY!
DOES THIS WANNA MAKE YOU LAUGH ?
HUH?
OR LIKE THIS?
IS IT FUNNIER LIKE THIS ?
THIS ?!



RLOW
RLOW
TAN
MISTER MASARU, YOU CAN'T RUN, OR ELSE YOUR WOUNDS WILL RE-OPEN!

AAAAHHH
SECURITY!


BLING
BAM
LAAUUGHH! I TELL YOUUU!

BOM

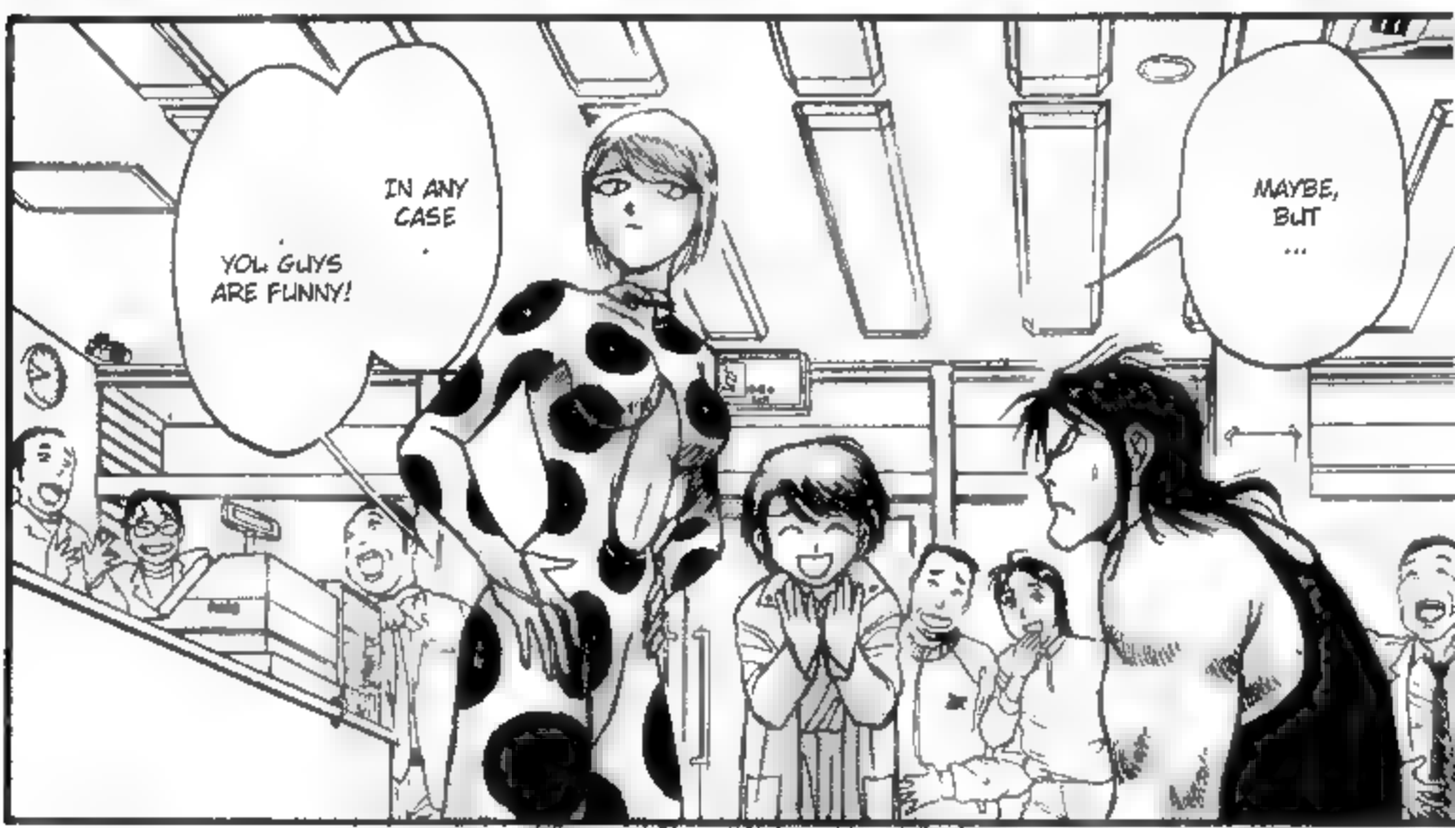
DO
OOH

HEH! HEH! HEH!
...
HA! HA!
...
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE FROM ME
...
NOW I'LL MAKE YOU LAUGH!
GO ON ...
TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO!
HUH?
I'LL DO ANYTHING!
IDIOT!
BROW
LAAAUUGGHH!
PITI

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN THAT SKULL? A PEA? AIR?!
YOU'RE TERRORIZING THEM! DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'RE GOING TO LAUGH ?!
SHIROGANE, ARE YOU MADE OF RUBBER ?
I WAS SUFFERING BADLY ... I WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF IT ...
MR. MASARU FOLLOWED YOU BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED! AND YOU'RE HERE RIDICULING YOURSELF IN FRONT OF EVERYONE!
BUT ...
THERE ARE NO "BUTS"!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A MORON!
REALLY!

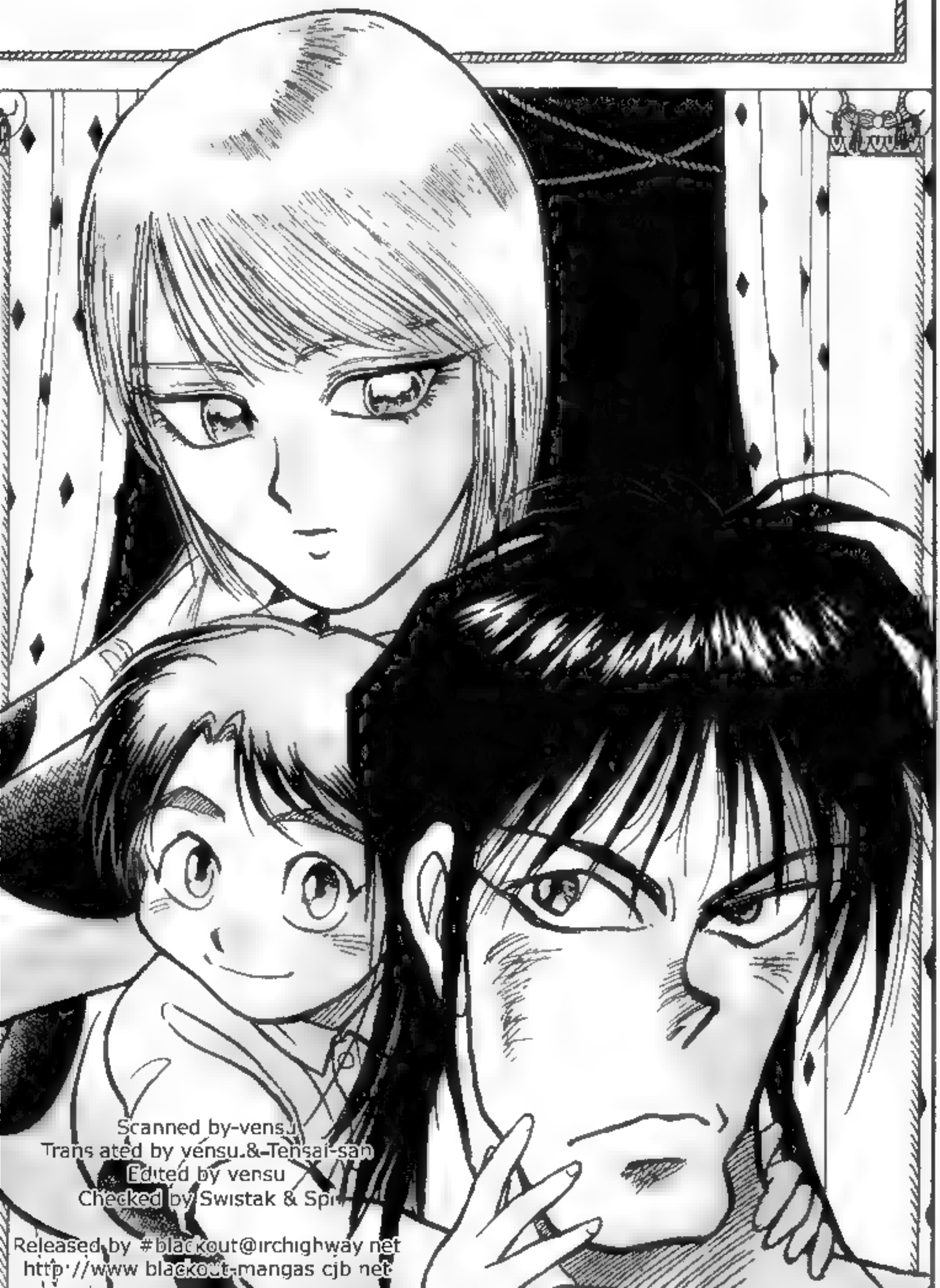
A STRAPPING MAN LIKE HIM, ACTING LIKE BRAT, LECTURED BY A GIRL ... IT'S COMEDIC!
THEY MIGHT'VE EVEN PLACED A HIDDEN CAMERA SOMEWHERE.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! THE GIRL'S WEARING A COSTUME.
THEY'RE STREET PERFORMERS, RIGHT? DOING IMPROV IN PUBLIC PLACES ...
THEY SCARED ME, THOSE TWO!
THAT DOESN'T INTEREST ME! AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, THAT'LL STOP YOU FROM SAYING IDIOTIC THINGS!
BUT... I SWEAR TO YOU!
PAAF
AND YOU! DON'T LET YOUR GIRLFRIEND WALK ALL OVER YOU!
GO ON, MISS! HE DESERVES A LECTURE!
HA HA HA HA

LISTEN .. I ..
YOU KNOW WHAT? I LIKE IT WHEN THE THREE OF US ARE TOGETHER!
PHEWFF ...
... SAVED!
YOU GUYS MAKE A GOOD TEAM!
MISTER MASARU .. I DON'T WANT A GUY LIKE HIM BESIDE ME!


MAYBE, BUT ...
IN ANY CASE .
YOU GUYS ARE FUNNY!

ACT1 : MASARU

CHAPTER 05 : "AT NARUMI'S HOUSE"



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Checked by Swistak & Spi

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KATO
always verify the gas
BLOUP
BLOUP
BLUB
TAC TAC
TAC TAC
HMM ...
DO YOU NEED ANY HELP ?

MISTER MASARU IS TIRED. HE HAD A HARSH DAY. WHAT I'M COOKING ...
... WILL REGAIN HIS STRENGTH VERY QUICKLY
I DON'T NEED HELP !
OKAY ...
BIG PANS ARE IN THE CUPBOARD AT THE TOP.
YES .
DON'T TURN THE TAP OFF TOO HARD! WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TURN IT ON AFTERWARDS.
OKAY ...
DO YOU WANT ME TO WASH THE OCTOPUS ?
I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE REASON WHY YOU HELPED MISTER MASARU ...
AH ?
YOU SEEM TO BE REALLY PROUD OF YOUR STRENGTH
BUT WHY DO YOU PUT YOUR LIFE IN DANGER, BY FIGHTING PUPPETS ?
FLIP
YES, WHY ?
I JUST THINK THAT YOU LIKE
... TO MIND OTHERS' BUSINESS

WHAT'S GOING ON, NARUMI ?
I'M TOO GOOD WITH HER !!
DAMN!
TAN TAN TAN
HA HA HA! SHIROGANE COMES FROM FRANCE ... THERE ARE STILL MANY JAPANESE WORDS SHE DOESN'T KNOW ...
HOW COME THAT SHE KNOWS THAT EXPRESSION? SHE'S A FOREIGNER, ISN'T SHE ?!
SHE DARES SAYING THAT I MIND OTHERS' BUSINESS !!

HORENSO ... (SPINACHES)
HAMU ... (HAM)
TAMAGO ... (EGGS)
TRUE ... I REMEMBER WHEN WE WENT SHOPPING ...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ... IT'S A FRENCH WORD
WHERE ARE THE "AUBERGINES" ?
HEY, NARUMI .
YES ?
AH!
WE CALL THAT "NASUBI" HERE !
HERE'S AN "AUBERGINE"
HOP
NEXT ?
HEY!
NEXT ?
THAT ... IT'S CALLED "NIN'JIN" ... IT'S A CARROT ...
AND THAT ... I THINK IT'S A BOTTLE OF "GYUNYU" ... MILK ...

WHAT'S THAT ?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS ?!
THE BIGGER IT IS, THE BETTER IT IS!
MITSUBA! CORN SALAD !
THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE DREW !!
MITSUBA
HM ...
THE BIGGER IT IS
I'D LIKE TO BUY THIS, AND THIS, AND THIS ...
HEY! YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO EAT ALL THIS TONIGHT ?!
ZE BEST
ANYWAY, IT WAS FUNNY
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH EMBARRASSED I WAS ...

THANK YOU, MASARU
LET ME HELP YOU, MOM!
MILK
...
I'LL FILL YOUR BASKET WITH EVERYTHING YOU'D LIKE !
WHEN I AM OLDER ..
DON'T WORRY !
.. FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO COOK YOU GOOD THINGS
I'M SORRY ..
TOMORROW YOU'RE GOING TO YOUR SCHOOL
HOW SO? .. YOU'RE NOT THE NATURAL SON OF SAIGA ?!
I THOUGHT THAT YOUR FATHER LEFT YOU A LOT OF MONEY !
WHEN I WAS ADOPTED BY SAIGA'S FAMILY THREE YEARS AGO
IT ALWAYS WAS THE SERVANTS WHO WENT SHOPPING ..
IT'S TRUE THAT I HAD LIKE TO PUT A LOT OF THINGS IN HER BASKET ..
I'D BE GLAD !
REALLY ?

...
WAS WHAT'S CALLED A "MISTRESS"

MY MOTHER
..

YES, IT'S TRUE
.

BUT I DIDN'T LIVE IN SAIGA'S FAMILY SINCE THE BEGINNING

WE LIVED TOGETHER IN A SMALL FLAT AND MOM WAS WORKING AT PART-TIME

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THE FACE OF MY FATHER
..

WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG, I LIVED ALONE WITH HER

I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE LESS CUTE THAN THAT !

OH! IS HE THE SON OF DAD'S MISTRESS ?

THERE WERE ALSO OTHER CHILDREN
...
WHO ALREADY WERE GROWN UP

THEN THE LAWYER BROUGHT ME INTO SAIGA'S FAMILY

A LAWYER CAME AND TOLD ME THAT MY FATHER HAD ANOTHER WOMAN IN HIS LIFE, HIS REAL "WIFE"

THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN MY MOTHER DIED

DAD REALLY WROTE THAT IN HIS TESTAMENT ?
WHAT !
MASARU IS THE HEIR OF ALL OUR FORTUNE ?
POF
WHAT A STORY !
FOR THAT KIND OF THAT
AN LEGITIMATE CHILD
SO MUCH MONEY
AN OFFICIAL AND LEGAL TESTAMENT
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT INHERITANCE ... I DON'T EVEN WANT IT .
I DON'T KNOW
TELL ME, WHAT DOES IT COST TO BUILD A GRAVE ?

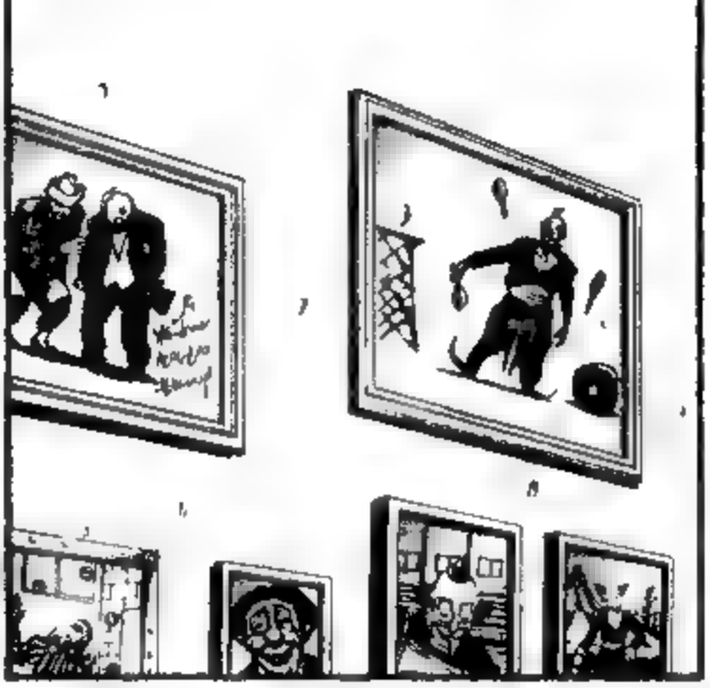
TO MY MOTHER
ALL THAT'S INTERESTING ME IS TO BUY A GRAVE
I'M GOING TO CRY
I NEVER HEARD SUCH A CRAZY STORY! IF HE CONTINUES ...
NOTHING
VRLOW
BAH.. WHAT'S GOING ON ?
AH! FINALLY! MASARU WAS BEGINNING TO STARVE
THE DINNER IS READY, MISTER MASARU

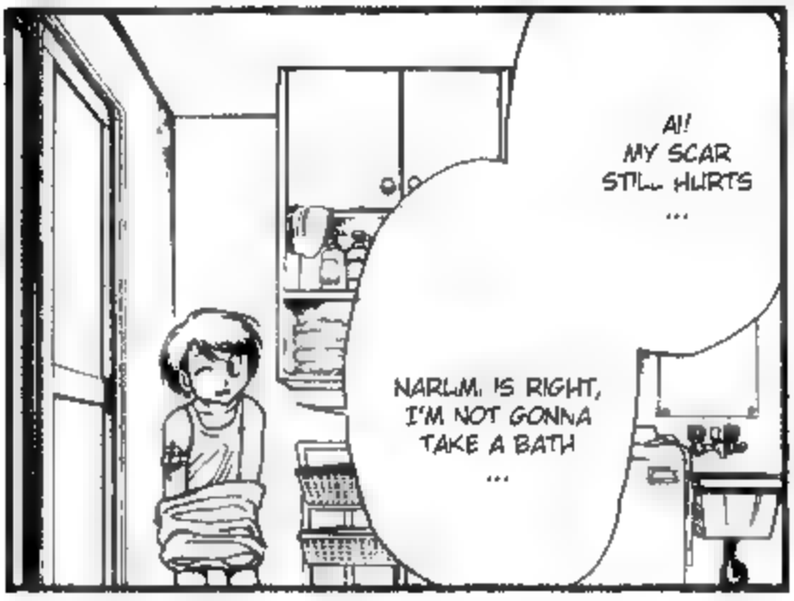
GLOUP
SCRONCH
MY GRANDFATHER LIVED IN JAPAN, BUT HE IS DEAD AS WELL
MY DAD DIED IN CHINA WHERE HE USED TO WORK ...
MY MOM TOOK OVER HIS WORK. SHE STAYED THERE.
SAY, NARUMI ... WHAT DOES YOUR FAMILY DO?
MMM
HERE, TAKE SOME STUFFED CABBAGE !
IT'S NO BIG DEAL ! BUT RATHER THAN TALK, YOU SHOULD EAT YOUR FOOD !
SORRY FOR ASKING YOU THAT
MY MOM GAVE ME HER HOUSE. NOW I LIVE HERE ALONE ..
... HMM !
WHO THE HELL DOES SHE THINK SHE IS ?
I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS SECURITY AND WELL BEING ... SO LET ME TAKE CARE OF HIM !
MASTER MUST EAT SLOWLY. HE ALSO NEEDS SOME QUIET AND REST ...
EAT SOME VEGETABLES ! THEY WILL HELP HEAL YOUR INJURIES !
WIPE YOUR MOUTH !
WHAT ?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!
YOU'RE HARASSING HIM !

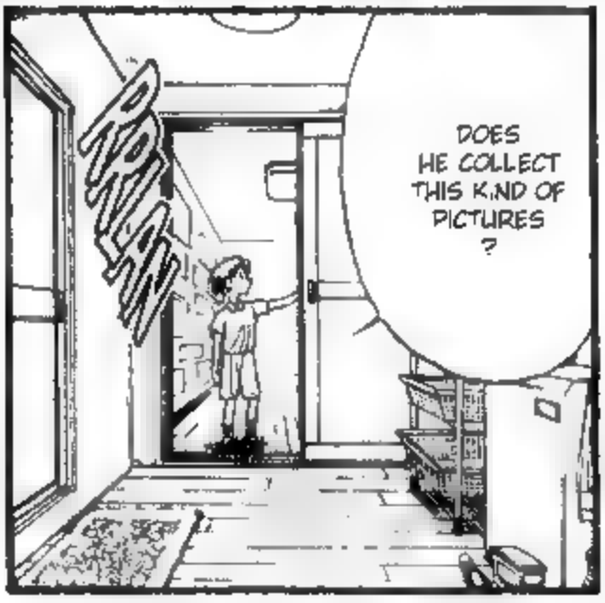
SHE SAYS IT'S UP TO HER TO PROTECT MASARU . .
BUT, WILL SHE DO IT TILL THE END ?
... IT'S SURELY NOT HER REAL NAME .
HER NAME IS SHIROGANE ... APPARENTLY
HMM ...
SHIROGANE, YOUR MEAL WAS DELICIOUS
REALLY ?
THANK YOU, YOUNG MASTER!
FOR ME, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE THE "YOUNG MASTER"
ME, I JUST CALL YOU "SHIROGANE", LIKE MY GRANDFATHER, SO ..
SHIROGANE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL ME "MASTER" ALL THE TIME ...

NARUMI
I GOTTA SAY THAT SHE'S ATTRACTIVE
WELL, EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE CAME FROM
HER FACE LIGHTS UP ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE TALKS TO MASARU
SHE IS VERY PRETTY EVEN' ... BUT WITH A MESSED UP CHARACTER
HMM! IN FACT ... SHE S NOT THAT BAD F YOU THINK ABOUT IT!
OKAY !
YES, SURE BUT DON'T GET YOUR SCAR WET TRY TAKING A SHOWER RATHER THAN A BATH
WE JUST STITCHED YOU UP
CAN I TAKE A BATH ?
HUH? WHAT ?
.. SAY NARUMI !
OH!
THERE'S LOTS OF PICTURES !
ALRIGHT !
THE BATHROOM IS IN THE BACK, TO YOUR RIGHT

... ESPECIALLY PHOTOS OF CLOWNS !




AI! MY SCAR STILL HURTS ...
NARUMI IS RIGHT, I'M NOT GONNA TAKE A BATH ...


RRLANN
DOES HE COLLECT THIS KIND OF PICTURES ?

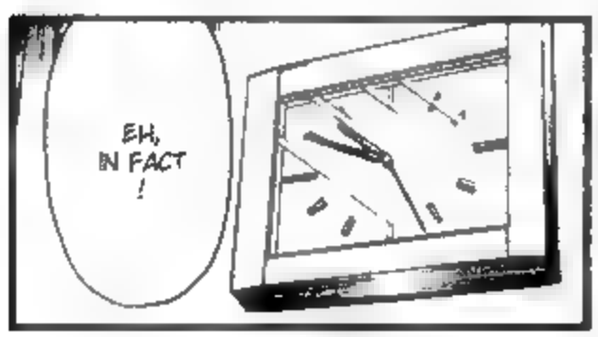
RRLANN

TODAY, REALLY A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED ...
BUT NO MATTER WHAT, I KNOW NOBODY WILL BE WORRIED ABOUT ME IN THE SAIGA FAMILY.
FFH

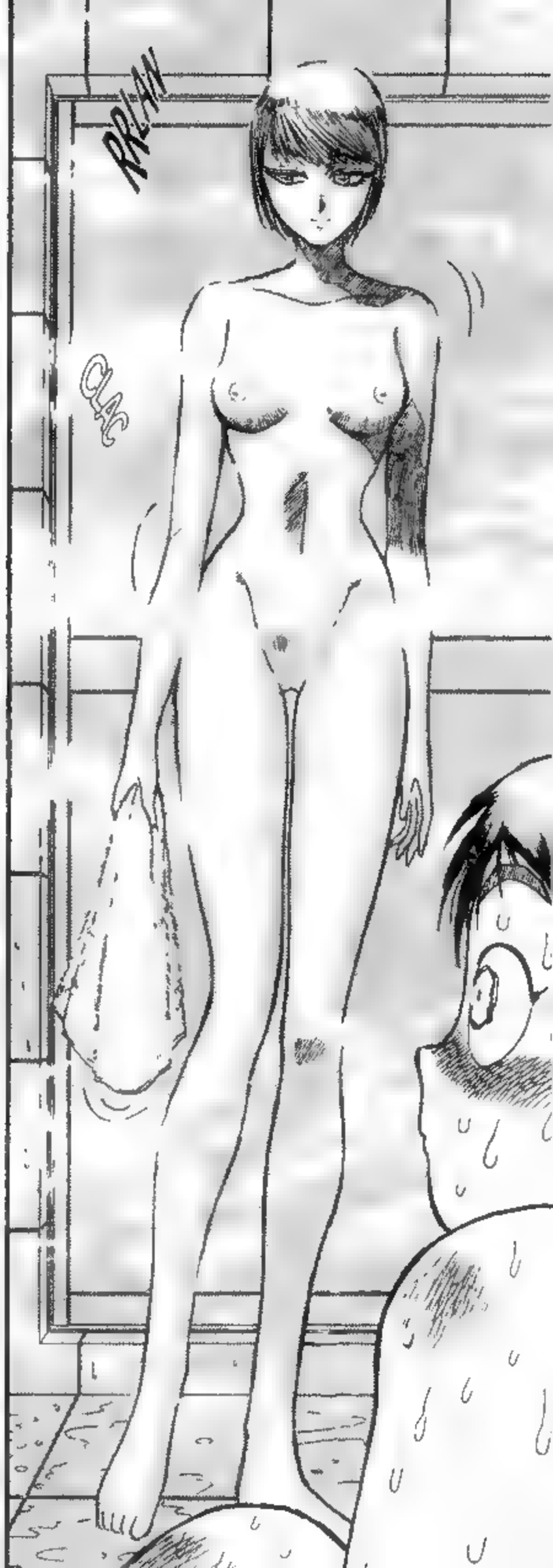
CH HHH

CH HHH

AAH . IS THAT YOU SHIROGANE ?!
OH, MASTER . .
WITH YOUR INJURY, I AM PRETTY SURE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WASH YOURSELF PROPERLY. ALLOW ME TO HELP YOU . .
WHAT?! EH... BUT... NO, NO, IT'S ALRIGHT... I...
ALLOW ME . .
SAH


EH, IN FACT !

.. MASARU COULDN'T WASH HIMSELF CORRECTLY
BECAUSE OF HIS INJURY ...
SIGH


RRUM
CLAC

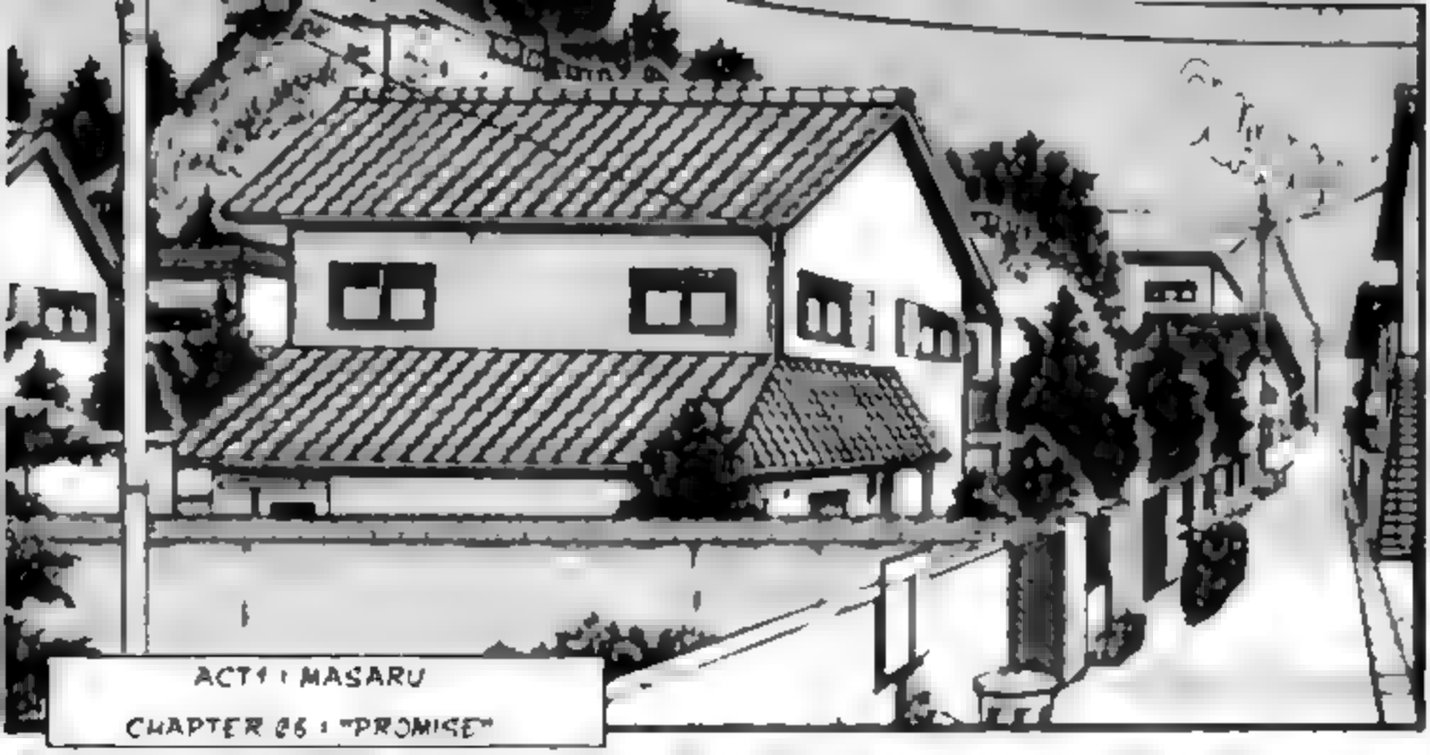
THAT REMINDS ME OF WHEN I USED TO TAKE BATHS WITH MY GRANDFATHER !
TON TON
SINCE I GOTTA TAKE A SHOWER TOO, I MIGHT AS WELL HELP HIM
I'M GONNA RUB YOUR BACK! ... YOU'RE READY ?!
RRR LAN
HEY, MASARU! IT'S ME!

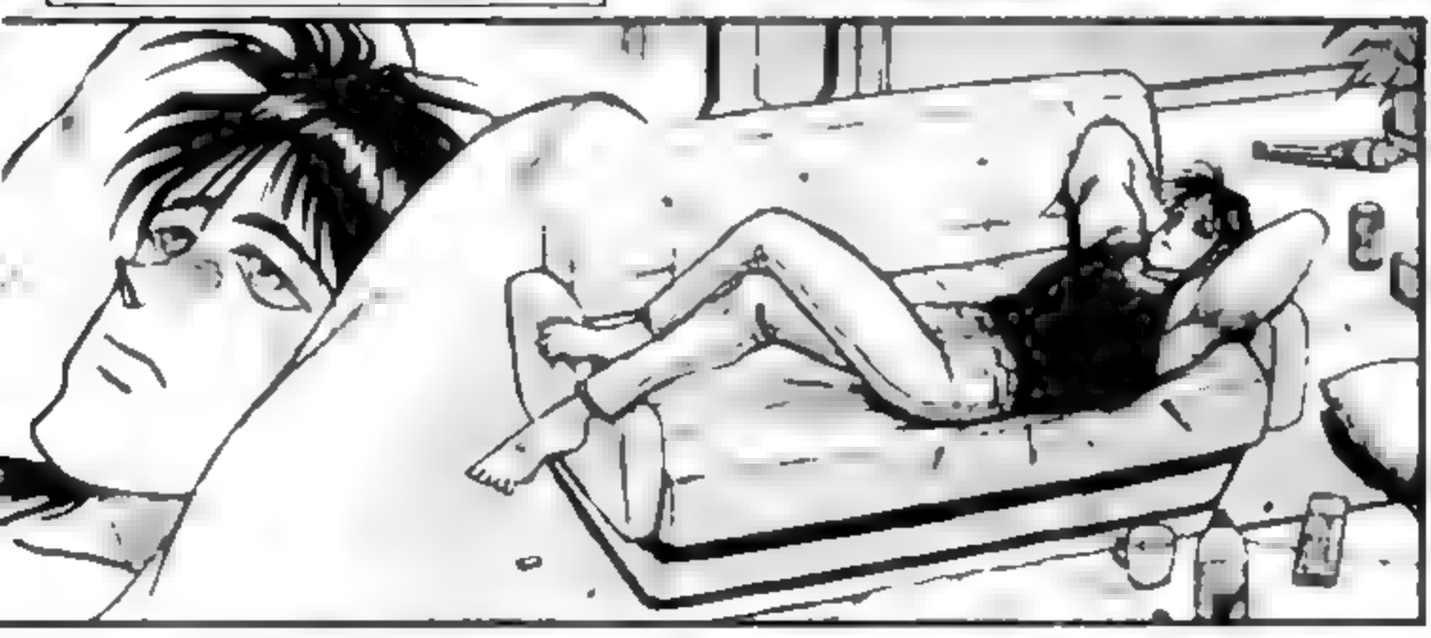
VLAP

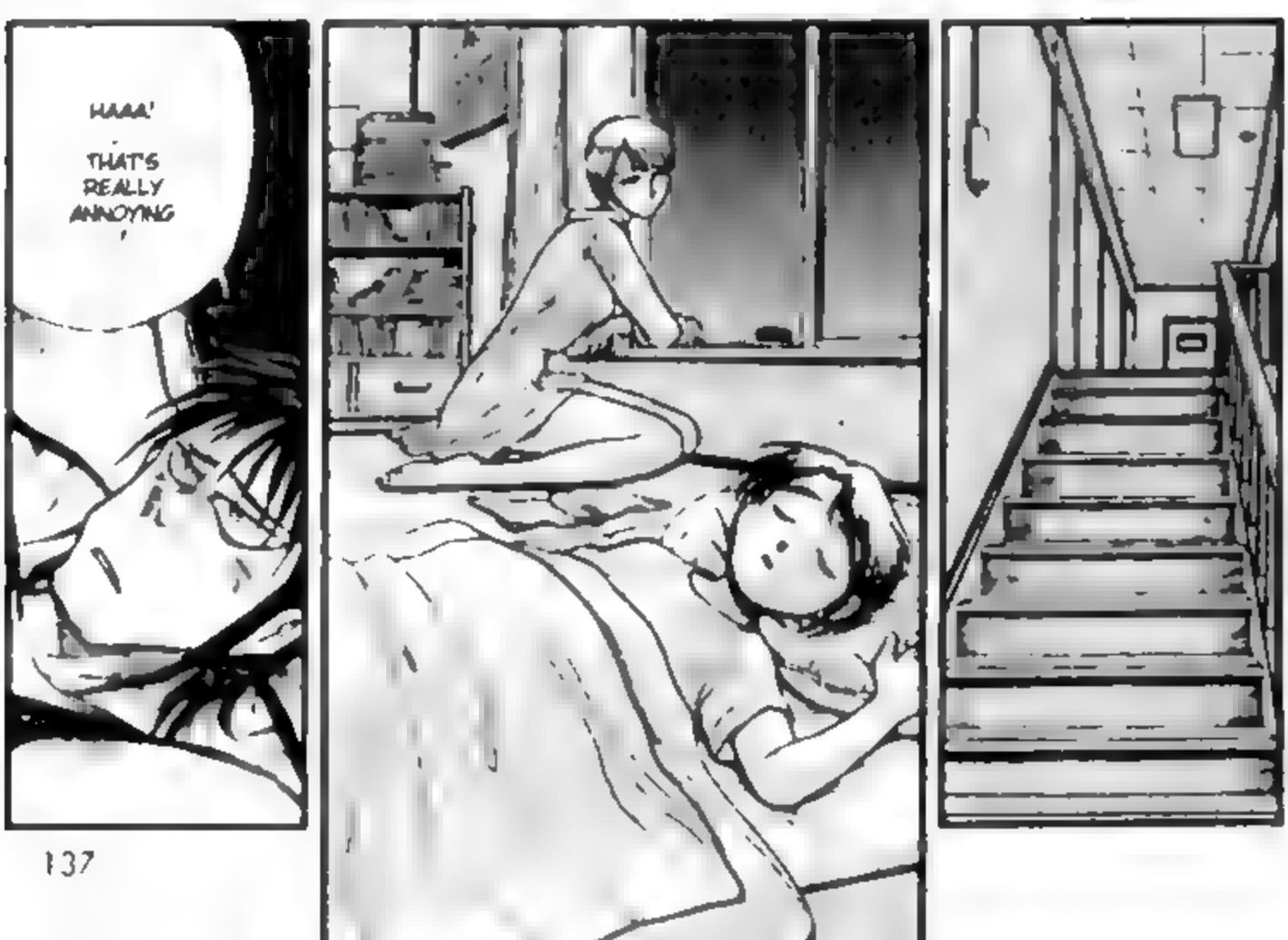
BRRLOM
EH... BUT. EH. I MEAN ...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU .. WERE ..
BLOM
BLOM
BLOM
I JUST . WANTED .
.. WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS !
TON TON
TON TON
SORRY MASARU! IT'S TRUE THAT I ALWAYS MEDDLE ...

I STILL WONDER WHY THE OTHERS FAILED... I MEAN IT'S NOT THAT DIFFICULT ...
YEAH ... YOU KNOW ...
WELL ... ARE WE GOING ?

... TO KIDNAP A KID AT THAT AGE !
CLIC
CLIC


ACT1 : MASARU
CHAPTER 05 : "PROMISE"




HAAA'
THAT'S REALLY ANNOYING'

ACT1 : MASARU

CHAPTER 06 : "PROMISE"

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Translated by Tensai-san
Edited by vensu
Checked by Spl

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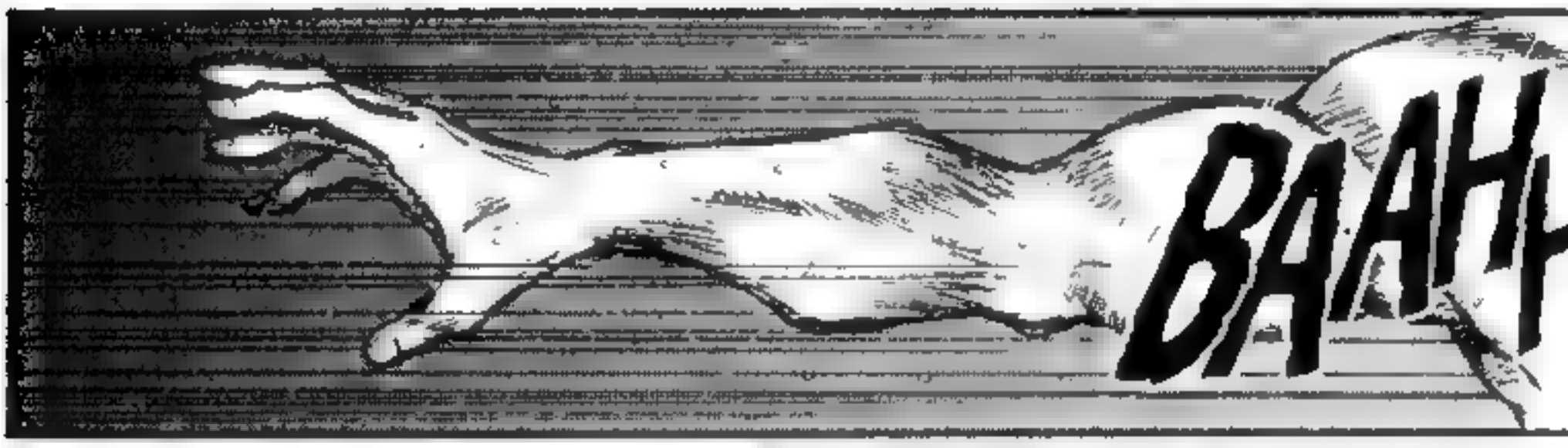
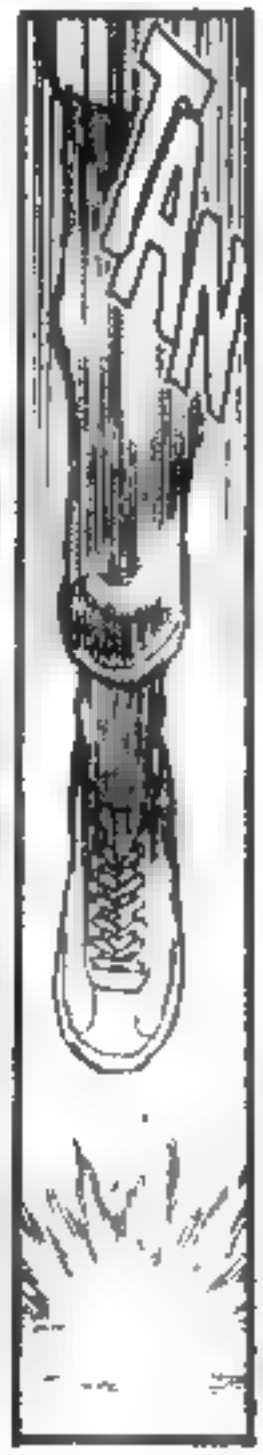




ZOM
BAAHH
AN DA N
WOM
I CAN'T LOSE MY CONCENTRATION !!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?! WHY DOES THAT BOTHER ME SO MUCH ?!
AAHH! I'VE HAD ENOUGH !
EH ?
HEY... NARUMI ?
WHAT ?!
I GOTTA CONCENTRATE !
I'VE TRAINED HARD FOR YEARS!
SHE IS CHOOSING HER CLOTHES FROM ALL THE STUFF YOU LENT HER ..
WHERE IS SHE ?
BUT TODAY, I'M GONNA HAVE A HARD TIME SLEEPING . .
I DO THIS EVERYDAY. I CAN'T SLEEP WITHOUT TRAINING A BIT
YOU'RE TRAINING ?
OH, IT'S YOU MASARU .

DO ME A FAVOR

YOU'RE GONNA FORGET IT Aww, GOT IT?

GRRR RR

ESPECIALLY AFTER SEEING HOW BOTHERED YOU WERE!

ME TOO, IT BOTHERED ME A BIT ..

AND ALL WET!

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SURPRISED WHEN YOU SAW SHIROGANE COMPLETELY NAKED!

DO

OH

GLOUPS

...

AND YOU! YOU COULD AT LEAST PUT SOME PANTS ON !

TAN

LEAVE THE MASTER ALONE!

ALMOST ALL YOUR CLOTHES ARE TOO BIG ...
THEY'RE NOT COMFORTABLE
... BETWEEN US, I AM THE MOST UNCOMFORTABLE !
WELL, REALLY NO BIG DEAL SINCE I ALREADY SAW YOU IN THE BATHROOM ...
HUH . SO WHAT ?
SAH
YOU KNOW IN A CIRCUS, WE ARE USED TO ALWAYS BEING TOGETHER ... IT DOESN'T FAZE ME
BUT .. YOU CAN JUST FORGET ABOUT THAT INCIDENT
LET'S GO MASTER ... YOU MUST BE TIRED
EH SO? IT WASN'T THAT SERIOUS? PFF... IF I KNEW THAT, I WOULD HAVE LOOKED MORE CAREFULLY !
... INSTEAD OF RUNNING AWAY
ANYWAY, IT'S NO TIME TO DROOL! MY TRAINING IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN ALL THAT, DAMN IT!
MAXIMUM CONCENTRATION !!
SBAM
SBAM

IN CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS, IT'S CALLED "GRIP OF THE DRAGON"
WHAT'S THAT STANCE ?
IT'S NOTHING
I AM SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOU DURING YOUR TRAINING ..
I. .
... I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO BE AS STRONG AS YOU
A VERY HARD TECHNIQUE BUT VERY EFFECTIVE
WOW! ... IT'S BECAUSE YOU TRAIN SO OFTEN THAT YOU HAVE BECOME SO STRONG!
YOU TAKE YOUR ENEMY BY THE HANDS AND VIOLENTLY HIT HIS HEAD WITH THE OTHER HAND ..
... AND DELIVER A POWERFUL KICK ON KNEE OR SHIN

...
I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO SCARED
IF I WAS STRONGER
TODAY
...
BAF

THEY HAD KNIVES AND BATS!
I MIGHT'VE ACTED TOUGH BUT WHEN ALL THOSE GUYS GOT TO THE CLINIC WITH THAT HUGE PUPPET
I WAS SO SCARED I ALMOST WET MYSELF!

I MIGHT GIVE YOU THE IMPRESSION THAT I AM STRONG
...
BUT EVEN I GET SCARED SOMETIMES
HUH ?

...
IT'S WEIRD
...
BUT I GOT NO IDEA WHY

...
...
BUT THEN
..
HOW COME YOU FOUGHT SO WELL EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE SCARED
?

I AM NOT AFRAID OF GETTING HIT OVER THE HEAD ... EVEN IF I LOSE MY TEETH ..

YOU GET TO A POINT WHERE YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF GETTING HURT ANYMORE

BUT IT'S TRUE THAT WHEN YOU'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR A LONG TIME

OH REALLY ?

IN SCHOOL, THE OTHER KIDS WERE ALWAYS MEAN TO ME ..

HUH ?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?

THAT'S PRACTICALLY HARASSMENT !!

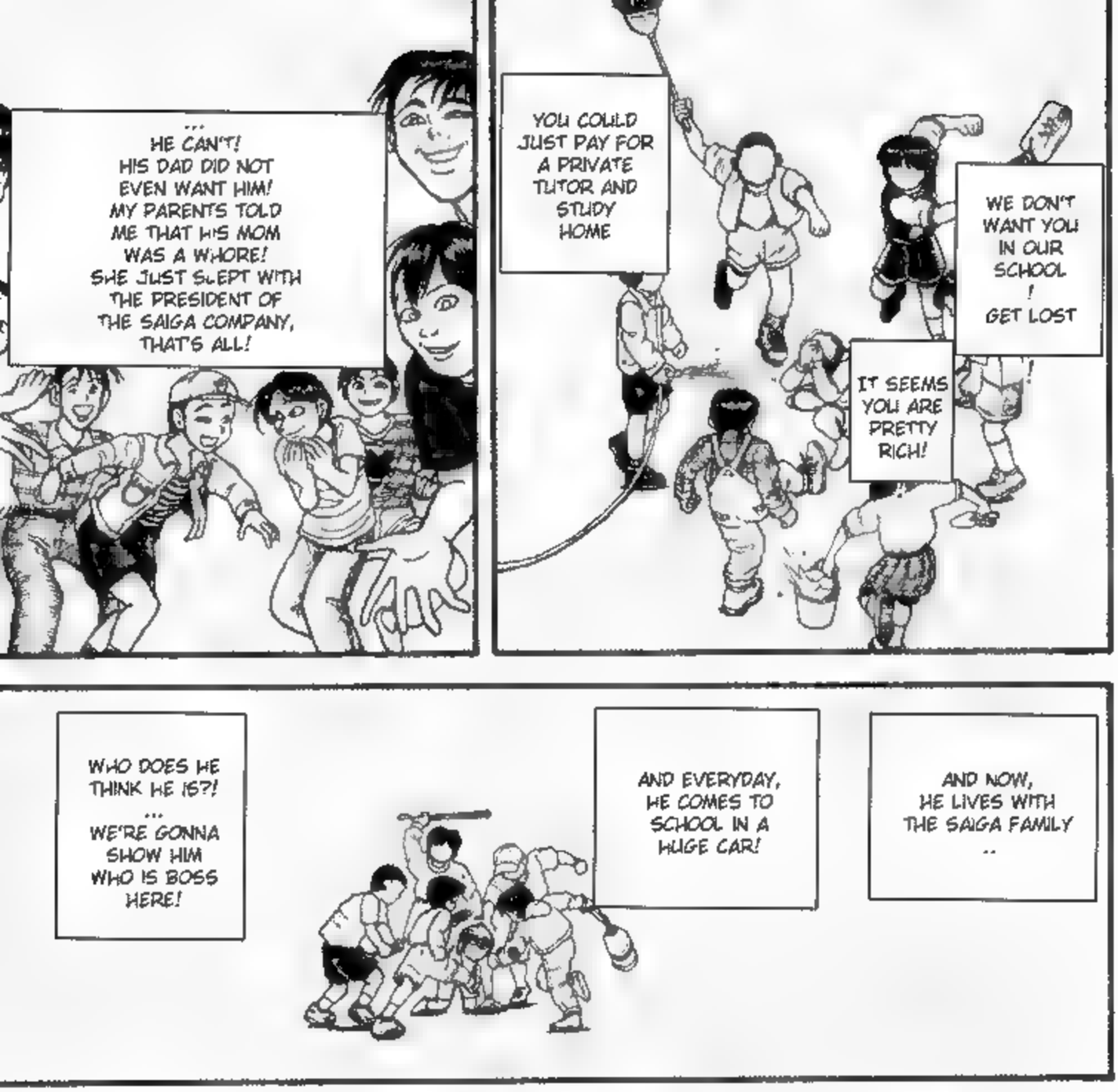
WHAT ?!

ONE DAY, I WAS PUSHED FROM A HIGH STAIRCASE AND BROKE MY ANKLE

ANOTHER TIME, THEY BURNED MY LEG WITH AN OIL LAMP

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY THEY DID ALL THAT! YOU MAY BE A BIT SHY . .

... BUT TO BE SO HATED BY OTHERS .

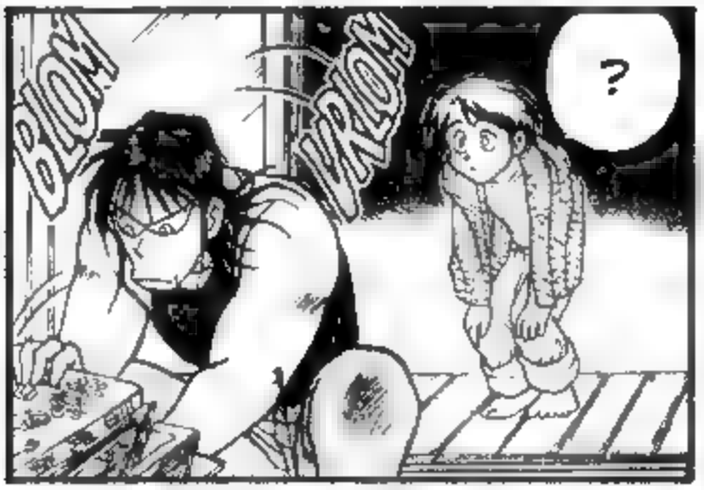

...
HE CAN'T!
HIS DAD DID NOT EVEN WANT HIM!
MY PARENTS TOLD ME THAT HIS MOM WAS A WHORE!
SHE JUST SLEPT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE SAIGA COMPANY, THAT'S ALL!
YOU COULD JUST PAY FOR A PRIVATE TUTOR AND STUDY HOME
WE DON'T WANT YOU IN OUR SCHOOL ! GET LOST
IT SEEMS YOU ARE PRETTY RICH!

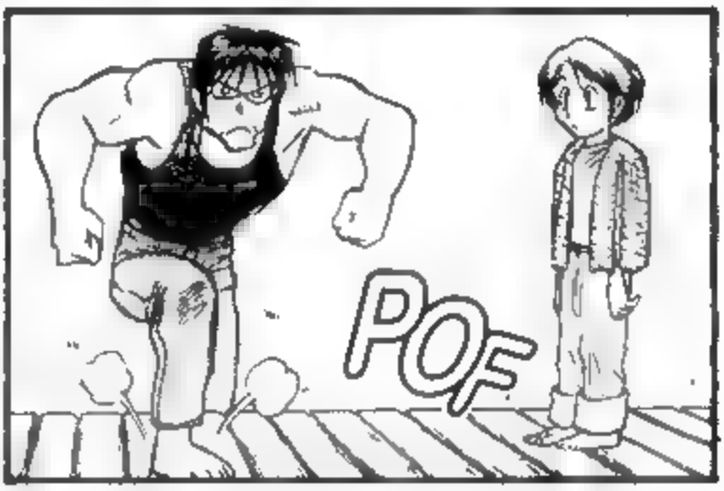
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?! ... WE'RE GONNA SHOW HIM WHO IS BOSS HERE!
AND EVERYDAY, HE COMES TO SCHOOL IN A HUGE CAR!
AND NOW, HE LIVES WITH THE SAIGA FAMILY ..

I DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL IN A CAR, BUT MY FATHER'S OLDEST DAUGHTER TOLD ME ...
BUT .. WHY ?!
NO, I JUST TOLD THEM I FELL IN THE GARDEN
BECAUSE THEY WERE HITTING ME EVEN MORE IF I DIDN'T SAY WHAT THEY WANTED !
DID YOU TELL YOUR DAD OR YOUR TEACHERS ?
SHIT! ... WHAT THE HELL IS THIS STORY ?!

NO. THAT'S WHY . .
PFF. . SHE WAS CLUELESS
WHY DON'T YOU WANT US TO ESCORT YOU ?
WHAT A DISGRACE !!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ? WALKING TO SCHOOL? . A SAGA?
I ALWAYS WANTED ...
AND THEN . .
CHHHHHH
I THOUGHT IF I WERE THE STRONGEST, AT LEAST THEY WOULDN'T HIT ME
... TO BE STRONG

I WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT ..
.. TO LAUGH LIKE THE OTHERS!


BLOW
WHOOSH
?


POF

I THOUGHT ABOUT BURNING IT. LOOK AT IT CAREFULLY
A PHOTO ALBUM? BUT ..

childhood memories
SPOF

.. OKAY ..
DON'T TELL ANYBODY ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GONNA SEE THOUGH! I WOULD DIE OF SHAME!

YEAH ..
.. THIS IS YOU ?!
THIS ..
FLAP
DON'T LOOOOK !!
HMM
THAT WAS DURING A SPORTS EVENT ...
HERE, I WAS PUNISHED BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO DRINK CAFETERIA MILK
THERE, I WAS CRYING BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL
HA! HA! HA!
HA! HA! ...

THAT'S IMPORTANT TO ME, IT'S ABOUT MY SURVIVAL !
SO FAR, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I COULD MAKE LAUGH . .
HM?
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
HOW ABOUT TRAINING WITH ME ?
OH? HOW SO ?
IT HURTS TO SEE YOU CRYING ... I REALLY MEAN IT AND WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU OUT . .
I COULD EVER DO THAT .
THAT I . .
IT'S JUST THAT . . I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT . .
WHAT'S WRONG ?
YES! ... I MIGHT NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH YET TO BE A TRUE MASTER, BUT ..
YOU MEAN . . AT MARTIAL ARTS ?!

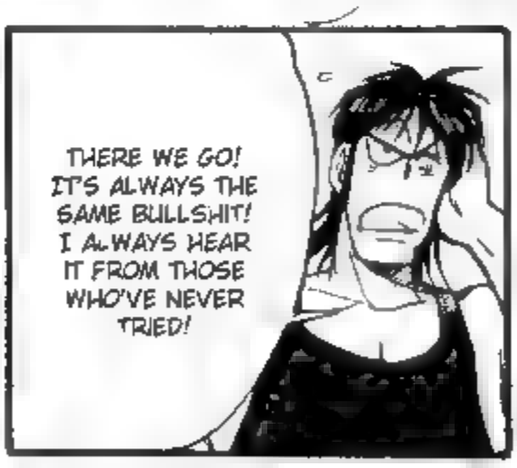
AH! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY WORTHLESS AT FIGHTING!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WAS JUST STUFF WE SEE IN MOVIES

BUT I, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN BAD AT PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES
...
REALLY, I GOT NO TALENT
...

AND SOMEWHERE, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE WHO IS READY TO HELP OTHERS LEARN THE ART OF FIGHTING
...
THIS IS REALITY !
LISTEN MASARU
...
MARTIAL ARTISTS, FIGHTING BARE-HANDED
...
ALL OF IT IS REAL!

THEN
..
I TOO, COULD BECOME LIKE YOU ?!

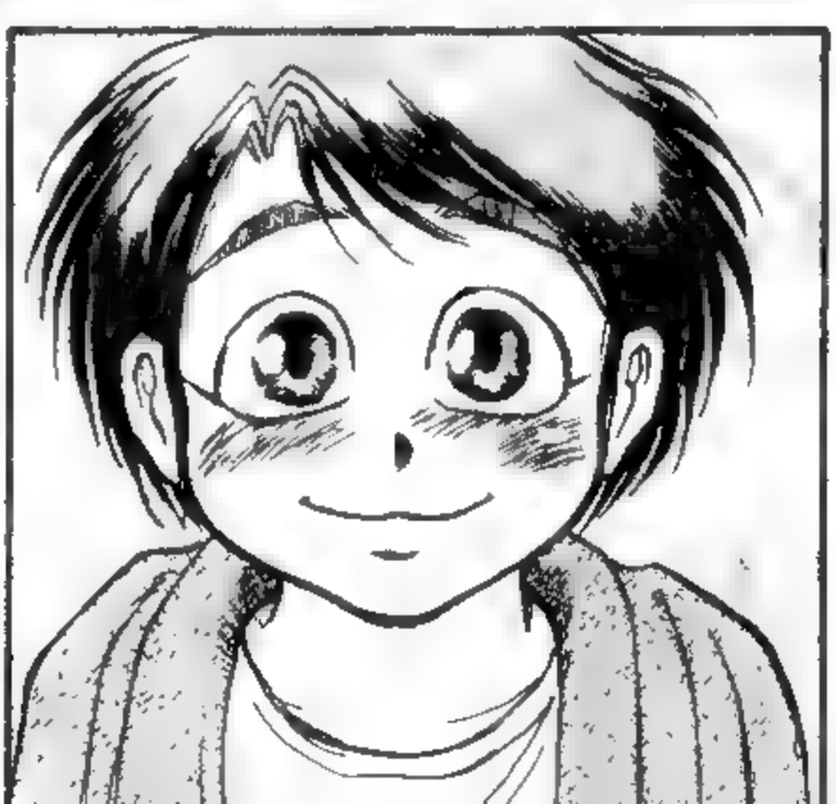
YOU AND ME
...
WE'RE THE SAME!

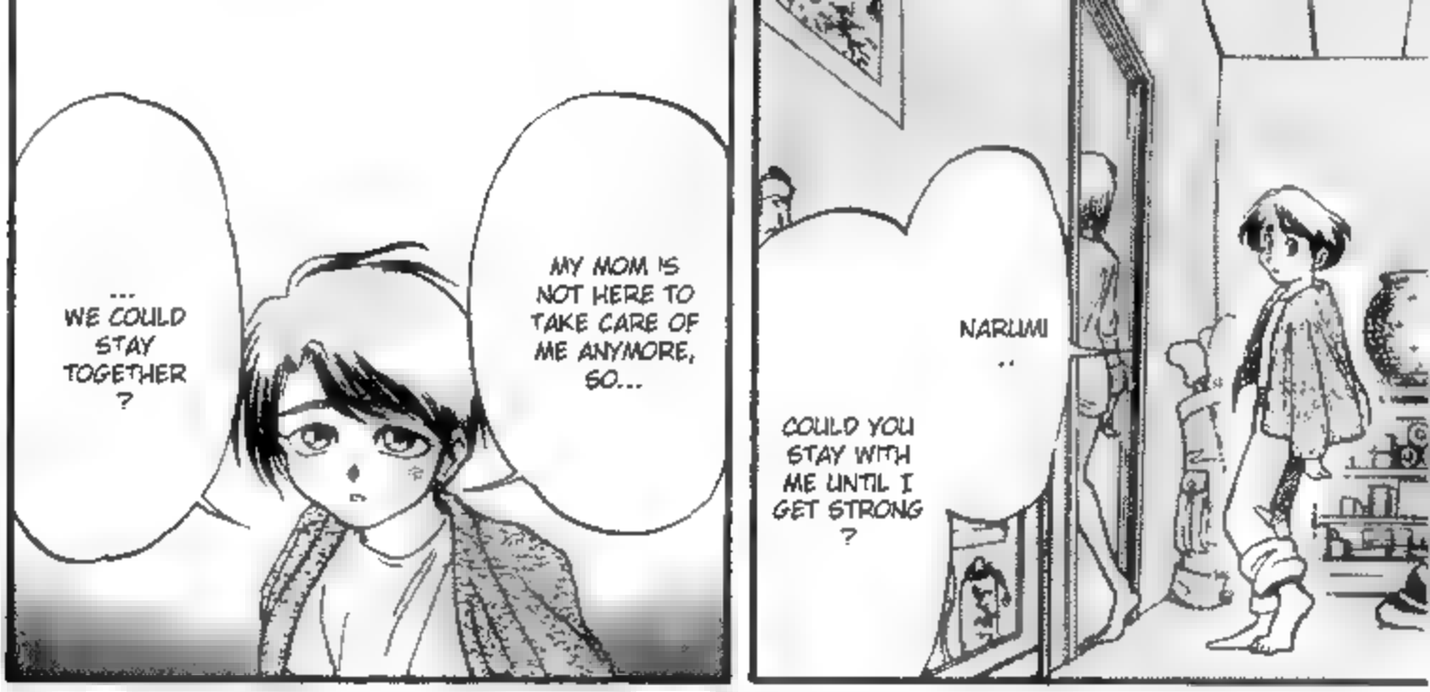

THERE WE GO! IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME BULLSHIT! I ALWAYS HEAR IT FROM THOSE WHO'VE NEVER TRIED!

...
I WAS A WEAKLING !
YOU'VE SEEN MY ALBUM, NO?

I'VE NO DOUBT WHATSO-EVER!
...
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO, YOU MIGHT JUST BECOME STRONGER THAN ME!

YES
COME TO SLEEP, MASTER

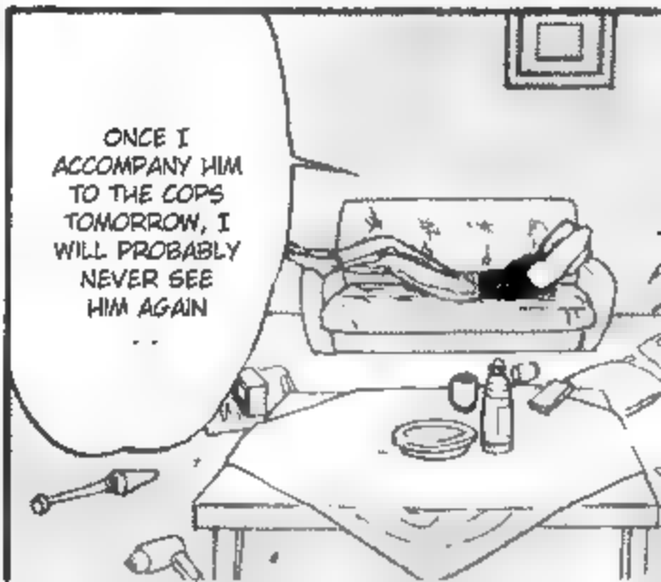


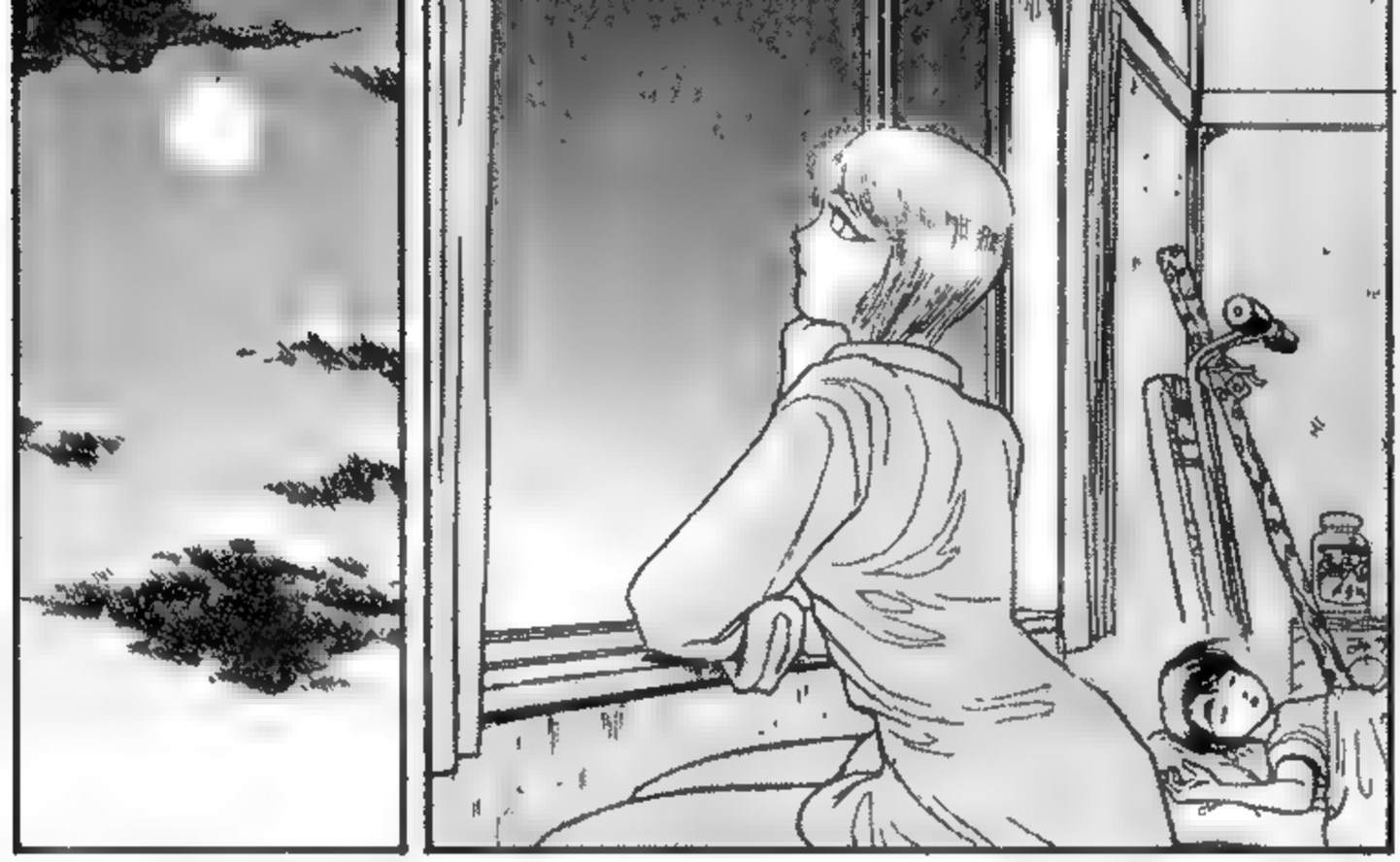

...
WE COULD STAY TOGETHER ?
MY MOM IS NOT HERE TO TAKE CARE OF ME ANYMORE, SO...
NARUMI ..
COULD YOU STAY WITH ME UNTIL I GET STRONG ?

WHY THE HELL DID I SAY YES ?!
MASARU AND I, WE'RE DEFINITELY NOT FROM THE SAME WORLD ...
.. SURE !

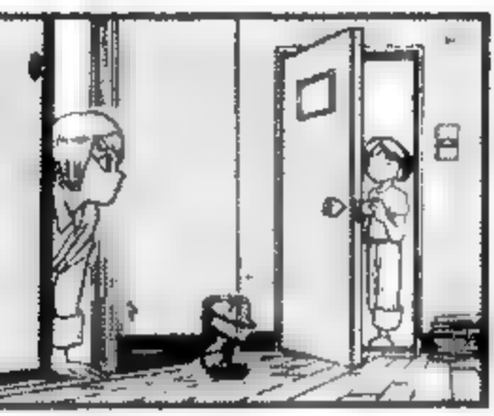
.. WILL BREAK MY HEART !
PARTING WITH THE KID ..

EVEN GOING AS FAR AS SUGGESTING TO TRAIN HIM ..
IT'S NOT LIKE ME TO EGG ON ANYBODY WITH THIS MANNER


ONCE I ACCOMPANY HIM TO THE COPS TOMORROW, I WILL PROBABLY NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN ..

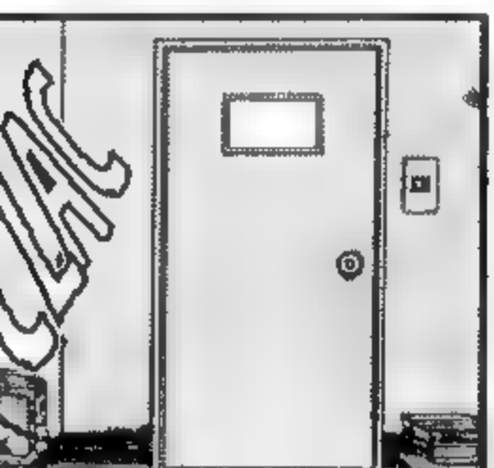


ZOOM



NO NEED!
...
IT'S NEAR
!
I'M COMING WITH YOU
!

NOTHING
...
JUST GOING TO WASH
...
SOMETHING WRONG
?!
THAT'S ALL



THE STARS ARE QUITE BRIGHT TONIGHT !
CLIC CLIC
IT SEEMS THAT SHIROGANE WON'T SLEEP ..
PSCH
CLIC CLIC CLIC CLIC CLIC
EH... WHAT'S THIS WEIRD NOISE ?

BRRAH
MMM
WHAT ?!
SBOM
ZAH
BZAH
HMM

BU-M

MASARU ?!!

SHIROGANE ?!

KIDNAPPING A KID IS NOT THAT HARD !

AND THE JOB IS DONE !

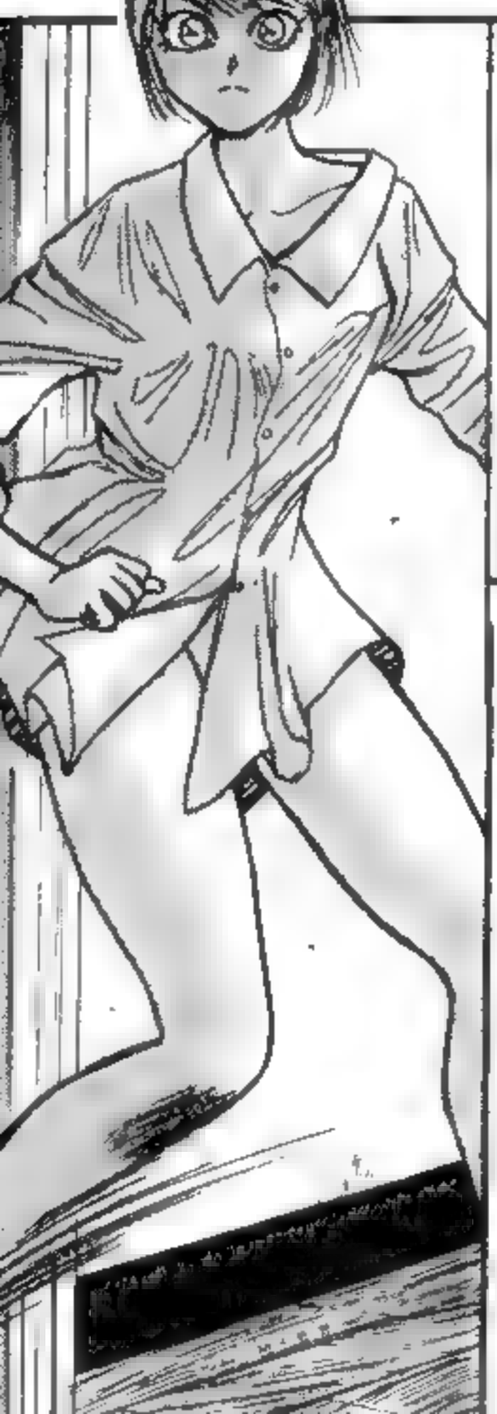
!!

SHIT!

OPAF

MMMMMM

SA



ACT1 : MASARU

CHAPTER 07 : "THE KIDNAPPERS"

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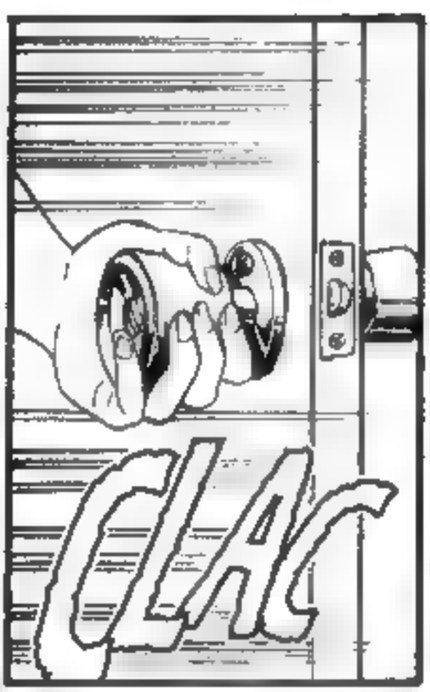
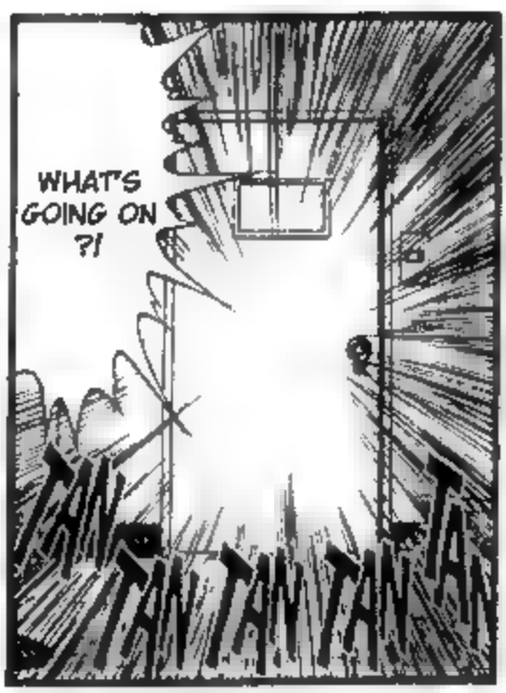




SHIROGANE
SH

ABDUCTING A KID!
IT'S NOT THAT HARD

I LEFT ARLEQUIN IN THE NEXT ROOM.
..IMMEDIATELY!
LET GO OF THE YOUNG MASTER..
NOW, KILLING YOU IS ALL THAT'S LEFT
CLIC
DAH
ZAH
CLIC
CLIC

BAM
OOPS!
SA
H
SHIROGANE ?!
BO
M

CLONG
LAC
NARUMI!
HELP!
DO OH
VHH
BASTARDS!
...
LET GO
OF HIM
!
KRRCH

GAN
SPAHH
HA! HA! HA! LOOK AT THIS! A BUNCH OF AMATEURS ...
SINCE THE OTHERS HAVE FAILED, I THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE A HANDFUL, BUT ... THEY'RE PATHETIC!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, ANYWAY ?
BASTARDS ..
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, GRIMALDI ?
OUR CONTRACT IS KIDNAPPING THE BRAT WITHOUT HURTING HIM ..
ASSASSINS FOR HIRE ! WE WORK USING OUR PUPPETS !
OH! YOU'RE AN AWFULLY BRIGHT GUY !
I THINK YOU WERE ALSO ORDERED TO KILL US, THE GIRL AND I

TO SHOW YOU I'M NOT BITTER, I'LL FIGHT YOU GUYS!
... INTERESTING !
OOH-OOH-H-H-H
GHHH
DON'T FORGET THAT WE GOTTA TAKE CARE OF THE GIRL TOO ..
MASUMURA .. YOU CAN NEVER CONTROL YOURSELF IN A FIGHT, CAN YOU ?
HEY, OZAKI! I AM GONNA HAVE SOME FUN WITH THIS GREAT MARTIAL ARTIST! ... BUT DON'T WORRY, I WON'T BE LONG !
TAN
OOOH! YOU KNOW CHI-KONG TECHNIQUES ?!

SAH

BUT SOMETHING'S WEIRD HERE
THIS GUY IS NOTHING SPECIAL... SINCE WE ARE ASSASSINS!

GO
OOHH

SO
AH

SHHA!
ANYWAY, I JUST HAVE TO ERADICATE H.M.!

!
WOMM
WHAT THE HELL!
...
HIS THIGH'S HARDER THAN A TRUCK'S TIRE!
BAA
AH
MY MASTER WOULD HIT ME
BECAUSE THIS BLOW ISN'T DEADLY!
I AM BUT A BEGINNER
...
HE GOT THROUGH MY GUARD AND HIT MY RIBS
WHAT A POWERFUL BLOW!
OOAW
...

!!
JUST YOU AND ME, NOW !!

WATCH THAT GIRL !

SAH
... YOU GOTTA STOP HER BEFORE SHE GETS TO HER PUPPET !!
... MASUMURA, THE GIRL GOT AWAY !

GHHH
IT... HU... HURTS !!
AAAHHHH
MM
IT HUURTS !!
HE COMPLETELY LOST HIS CONCENTRATION !
INTERESTING! THE SECOND HE HEARD THE BRAT'S VOICE
... MASARU !

BAM

AS SOON AS MASARU SCREAMS, I LOSE IT! AM I THAT MUCH OF A NOVICE?!

..
WHY CAN'T I CONCENTRATE ?!

NARUMIIII !!

... SHIT !

YOU ALMOST HAD ME THERE, WITH YOUR LITTLE SHOW !

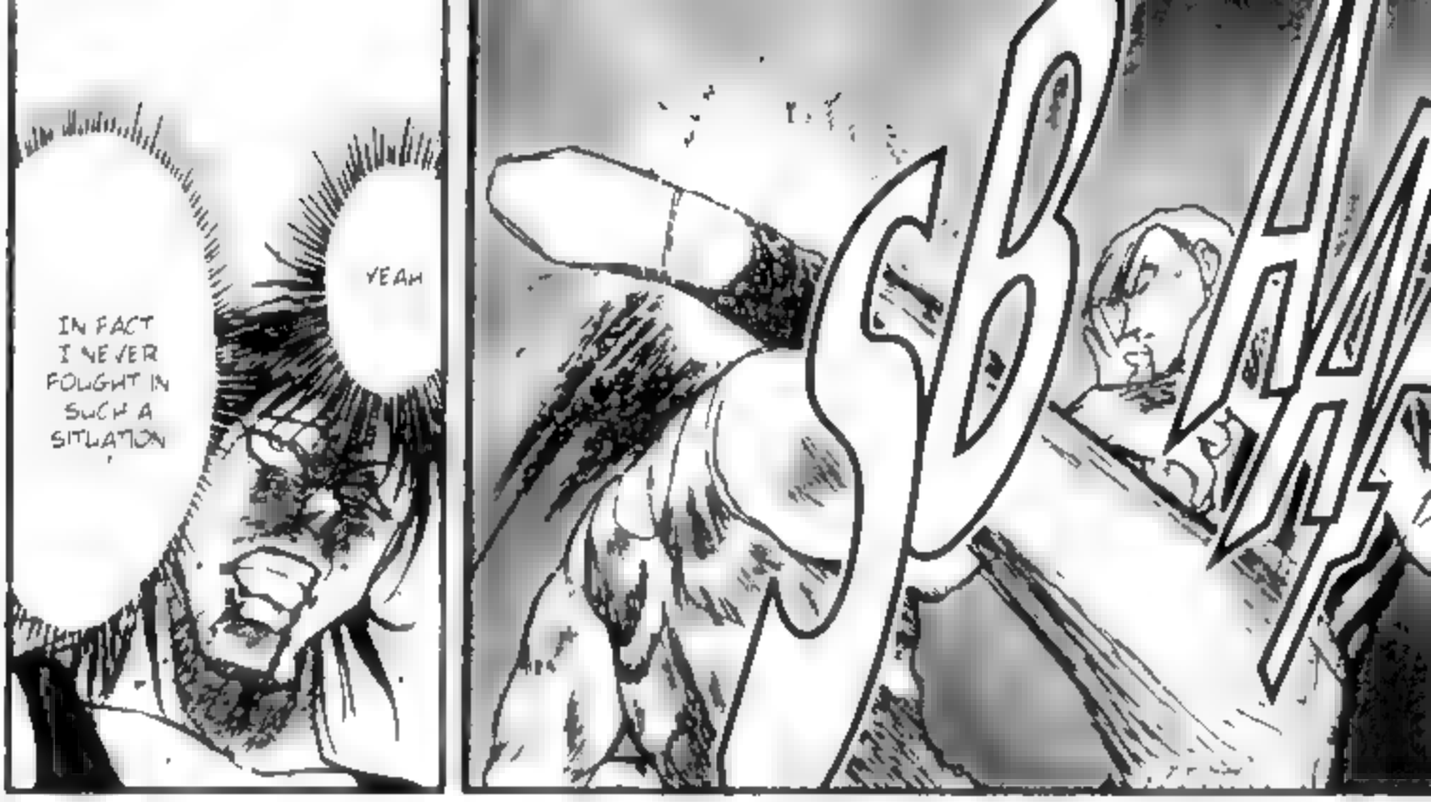
THIS IS, A "GREAT MASTER" ?!

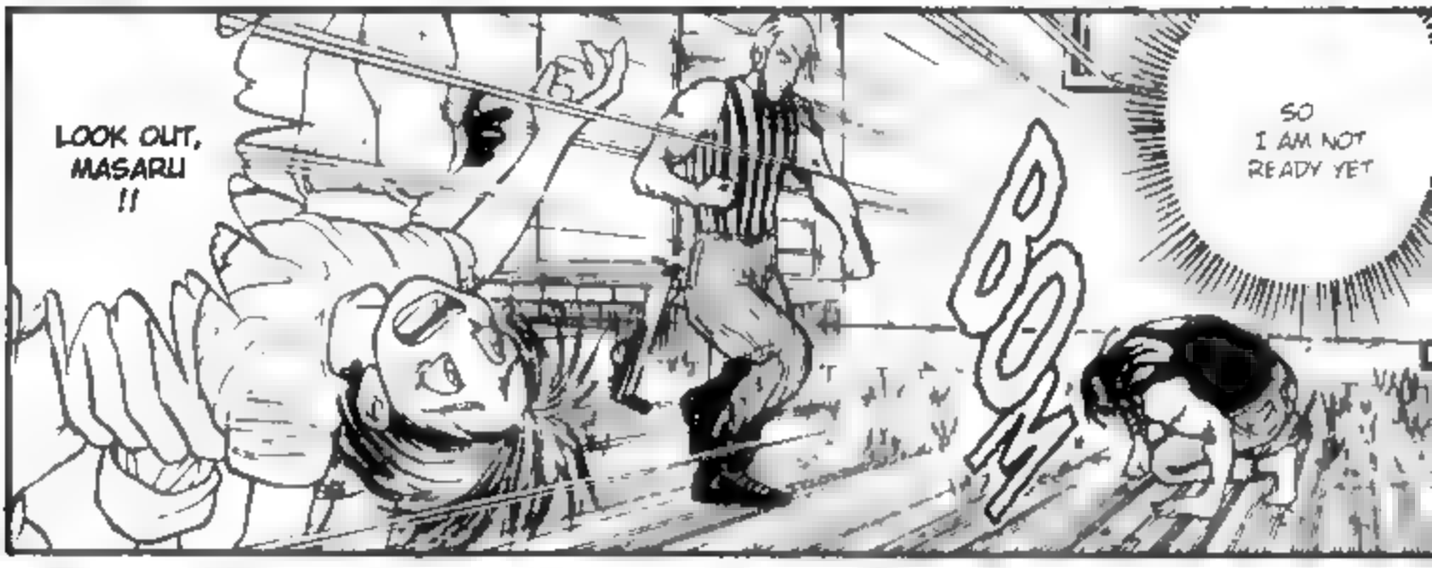
BOM

BAM

SBAM

BOM


IN FACT I NEVER FOUGHT IN SUCH A SITUATION
YEAH
BAM


LOOK OUT, MASARU !!
SO I AM NOT READY YET
BOM

CLAC

SHIT !
THAT'S ENOUGH MASUMURA! WE'VE GOT NO MORE TIME FOR FUN !

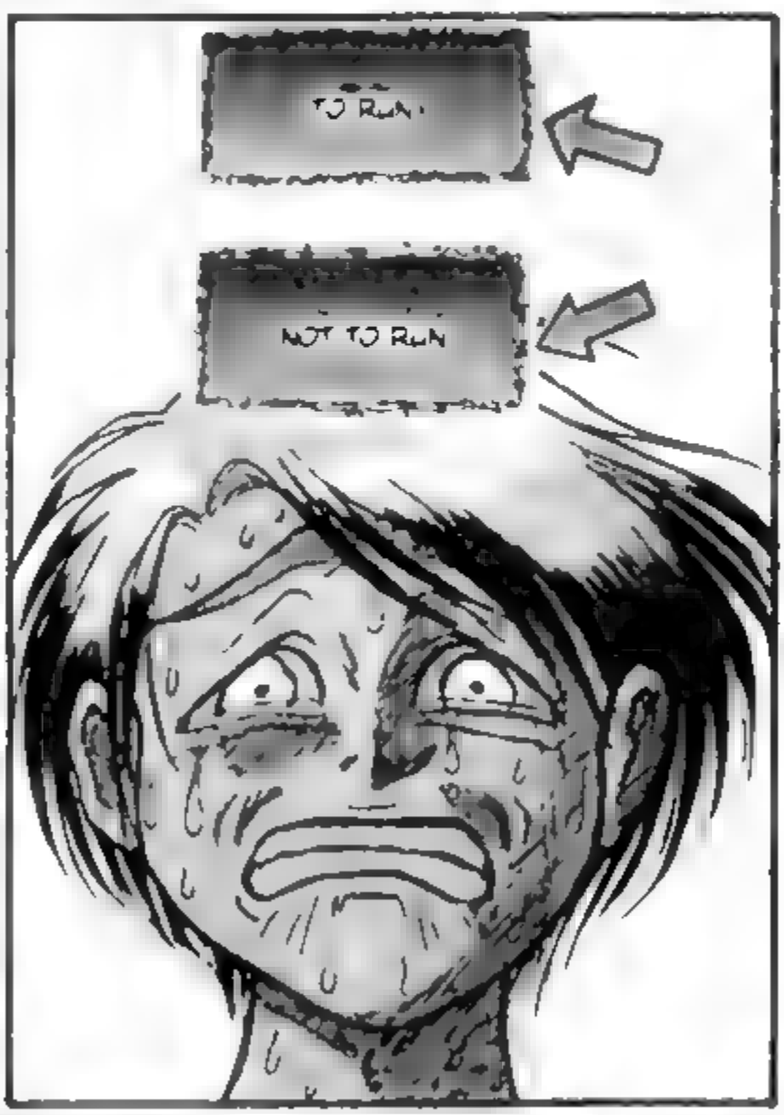
... ARLEQUIN !!

VVHH
ZZLAF
SHRA
BLA

RUN AWAY, HURRY !
MASTER!
... GO !
MASARU !
HELL NO !!
BOOM

QUICKLY, MASTER !
SHRIEK
NARUMI ... I.. I..
SHIROGANE
... DON'T MOVE !!
STAY PUT, SNOTTY BRAT !

BA


TO RUN
NOT TO RUN

SAH
I
I

AAAAHHHH!
RUN
NO!
WAIT!
YEAH!
...
WE CATCH THE KID AND LEAVE QUICKLY !!
GET ON, MASUMURA !

RUN AWAY, MASTER !!

GO AWAY, MASARU!

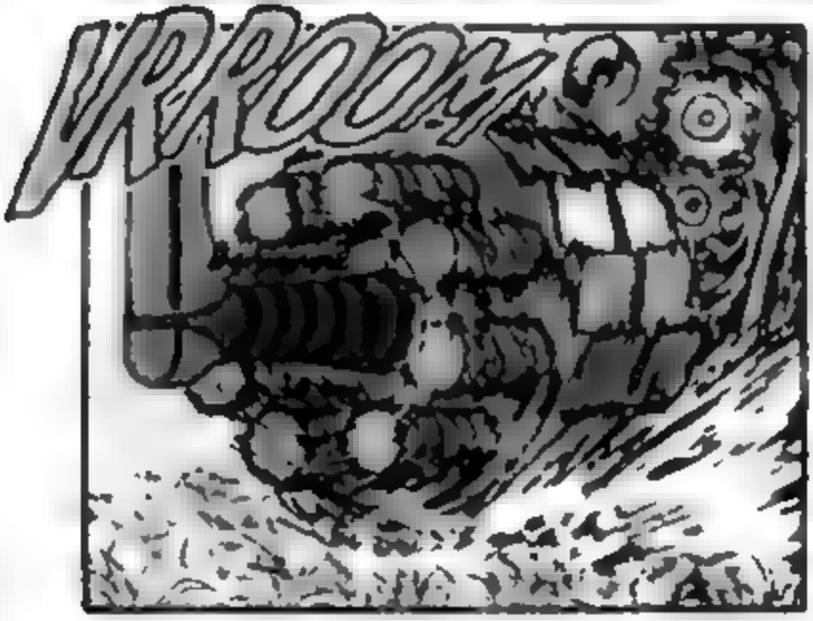
OUA AAH!

DA HH

ACT1 : MASARU

CHAPTER 08 : "FLIGHT"

THE KID IS RUNNING AWAY!


VR-ROOM

GET ON, MASUMURA. WE'RE GONNA CATCH HIM!
CRASH

SCHRRAG
IDIOT! HE THINKS HE CAN OUTRUN GRIMALDI ...

CLAC
...AW!

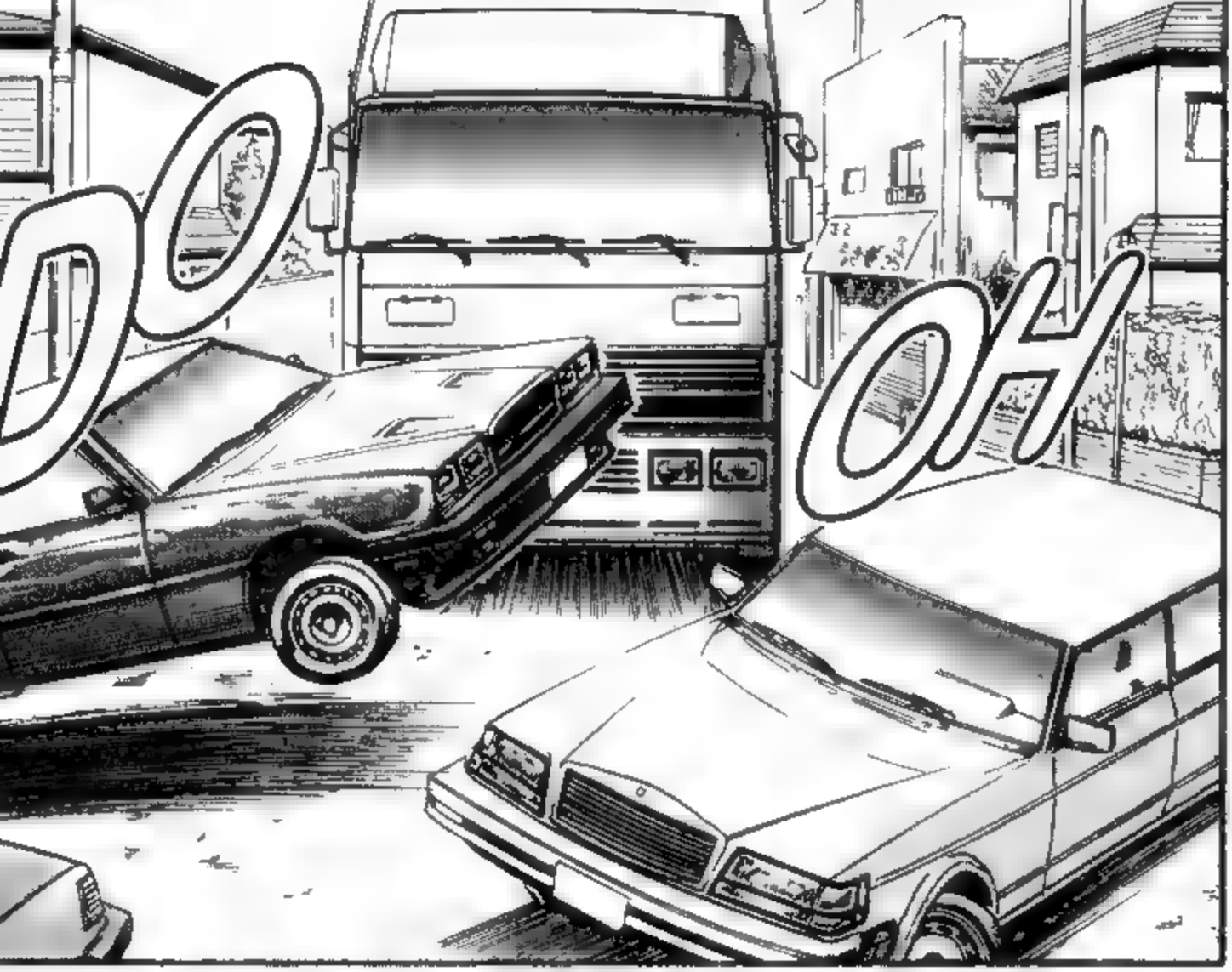
HMM
HMM
TAN
TAN
TAN

HMM
HMM
TAN
TAN

BRLAM

MASARU !!
YOUNG MASTER!

DAD!
NARUMIIII
!!!
BRAM
IRROW
THEY PLANNED THIS IN ADVANCE
YOUNG MASTER

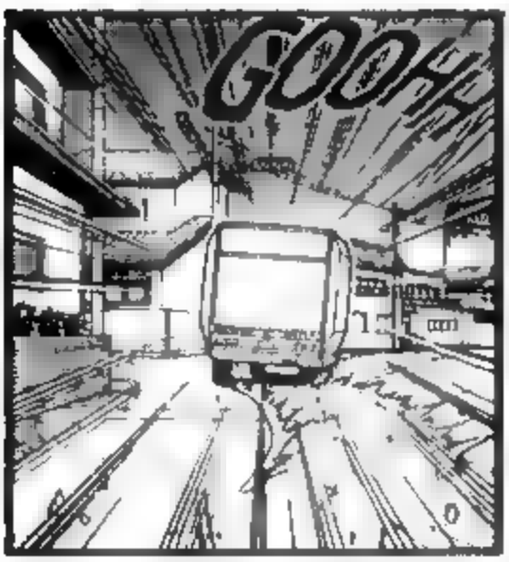

OH

THOSE TWO CARS ARE TRYING TO BLOCK THE TRUCK
WHAT'S THIS ?

CRASH

SLAM

WHEE
HOOM


GOOK

OOOOHHH!

QUICK, WE GOT TO CALL THE COPS

THERE'S NO POINT ...

THEY GOT AWAY
DAH

HEY
YOU'RE THE GUY WHO ATTACKED US AT THE CLINIC
I THINK THEY'LL TAKE THE KID RIGHT AWAY .. YOU CAN TRY INTERCEPTING THEM ON THE HIGHWAY ?
NO, I'M TALKING TO TWO GUYS BEFORE ME .
THEY CANNOT GET TO THE PORT, GOT IT?
NOBODY SAW THE KID BEING KIDNAPPED. BESIDES, AN INVESTIGATION MIGHT TAKE A WHILE, AND YOU WANT TO FIND HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, RIGHT?
YOU GOT NO PROOF OF ANYTHING ...
WHY DID YOU SAY THAT GOING TO THE COPS IS USELESS ?
IT'S AN EMERGENCY
SORRY FOR THE CALL ... BUT ..

AND WHERE YOU TOOK THE YOUNG MASTER
TELL US WHO YOU ARE ...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KIDNAPPED MASTER MASARU !!
STOP YOUR BULLSHIT
WAIT, YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T GET IT .. WE DIDN'T KIDNAP THAT KID!
... ...
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE AWFULLY CUTE ..
BUT, THAT WASN'T US.
IT'S TRUE WE WERE SUPPOSED TO KIDNAP HIM..
YOU'RE LYING

IT'S A RIVAL GANG .
IT DOESN'T PLEASE ME THAT SOMEBODY ELSE GOT HIM ..
THAT'S WHY WE TRIED TO STOP THE TRUCK

I'LL TELL YOU A VERY INTERESTING STORY ABOUT THAT K.D ..
INTERESTED ?

... ...
LET GO OF ME, PLEASE

I DIDN'T EVEN INTRODUCE MYSELF ..
MY NAME IS EIRYO ASHIHANA

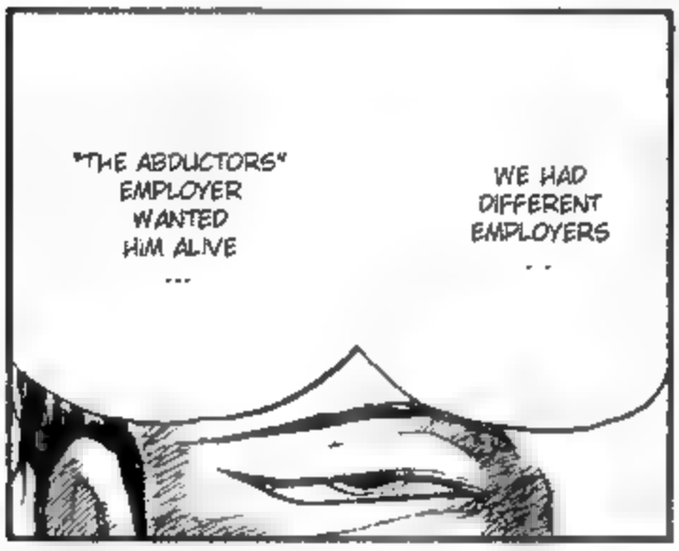
IF YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, GET IT OVER WITH IT
PFF!
PAF

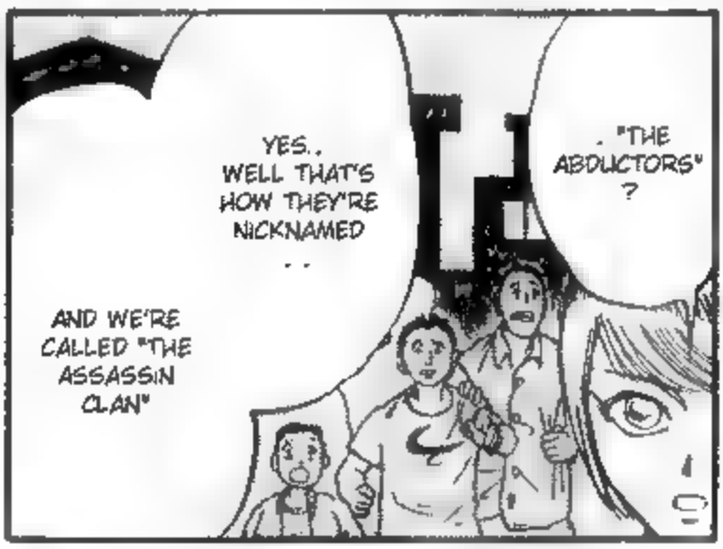
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE HUGE INHERITANCE HE GOT FROM HIS FATHER, THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE SAIGA ENTERPRISES
HAVE YOU GOT A CLUE WHAT SITUATION THE BOY MIGHT BE IN ?
SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU'RE NOT THE KIDNAPPERS OF THE YOUNG MASTER ?
CLIC
WHEN THEY FOUND OUT MASARU GOT EVERYTHING, THEY WERE FURIOUS . .
THE MAN HAD 4 CHILDREN, AND THEY SHOULD HAVE ALL GOT THEIR SHARE . .
SINCE HE WAS STILL JUST A KID, IF MASARU WERE TO DISAPPEAR ..
THE INHERITANCE WOULD GO TO HIS NEXT OF KIN, THEMSELVES
HAD THIS IDEA . .
AND ONE OF THEM .
YOU WANT US TO BELIEVE YOU WEREN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KIDNAPPING ?
DESPITE THAT ..
... HIRED OUT TO GET RID OF MASARU
THIS PERSON . .

YOU'RE INSANE
... DON'T LAUGH, YOU BASTARD.
BUT ... OF COURSE. THE ORDERS WERE TO KILL HIM, WHY BOTHER WITH KIDNAPPING HIM?
HE HE HE ..
... TO KILL SUCH A KID IN COLD BLOOD?
YOU REALLY WERE PLANNING
GR-R-R-R
WHAAAT?
SURE ... IT'S OUR JOB.

BLA
BLA
BLA
THEY'RE CALLED "THE ABDUCTORS"

THEN WHO KIDNAPPED THE YOUNG MASTER ?


"THE ABDUCTORS" EMPLOYER WANTED HIM ALIVE ...
WE HAD DIFFERENT EMPLOYERS . .


. "THE ABDUCTORS" ?
YES.. WELL THAT'S HOW THEY'RE NICKNAMED . .
AND WE'RE CALLED "THE ASSASSIN CLAN"

THE FAMILY OF THE PUPPET MASTERS IS DIVIDED INTO TWO ... AND WE'RE IN PERMANENT RIVALRY
WHAT IRONY ...

THE "FAMILY" ?

MASUMURA, OZAKI AND THEIR HUGE PUPPET ?
THEN, YOU KNOW THESE GUYS ?

HA HA! ... WHAT A DUMB QUESTION! THEY'RE PART OF THE "FAMILY"

POF
WHO HIRED THE KIDNAPPERS OF THE YOUNG MASTER ?
THEY HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO ALL ACCOUNTS AND CAN USE THEM AS THEY WISH ...
AS LONG AS THE CHILDREN ARE MINORS, THE GUARDIANS MANAGE THE MONEY
A SIMPLE QUESTION ... DON'T YOU THINK THE LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A KID AS RICH AS MASARU WOULD WANT HIM ALIVE ?
WHO IS IT ?
...WANT TO ADOPT MASARU AND BECOME THEIR SON
... A MEMBER OF THE SAIGA FAMILY ...

IT'S ME ...
NO ...
WHY ARE YOU STILL CRYING ?
MOM?
BECAUSE I'M WEAK ...
BECAUSE I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ...
... WHO'S CRYING
IT'S ME ...
!
... AND I'M ASHAMED
I FEEL SO HELPLESS ...
... AND CRYING LIKE AN IDIOT
I'M ASHAMED OF BEING HERE ...

HUH ...
WHERE AM I ?
CLAC
I KNOW YOU ...
YOU'RE A MEMBER OF MY FAMILY ...
I WAS SO WORRIED. I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
MY DEAR MASARU
YES ...
I'M YOUR UNCLE ZENJI ...

LET ME WARN YOU BEFOREHAND ...

THE HOUSE IS FULL OF WEIRD AND DANGEROUS TRAPS, JUST LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE THAT GUY DOES.

WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO ?

SO?

I ORDERED MY MEN TO PREVENT THE TRUCK FROM REACHING THE HARBOR BUT I THINK THEY'LL FAIL ...

I WILL GO MYSELF TO BE SURE ...

I'M PRETTY SURE THE KID WILL BE THERE

THAT MAN USED TO RUN THE SAIGA ENTERPRISES A LONG TIME AGO ... HE OWNS A MANSION AT KARUIZAWA

AND TO TOP IT ALL, HE HIRED THE WORLD'S SIX BEST PUPPET MASTERS.

THE PLACE IS HEAVILY GUARDED

ALL OF YOU, ADULTS, PLANNED ...
TO KIDNAP OR KILL A POOR KID
IS TO PROTECT THE YOUNG MASTER NO MATTER WHAT
MY JOB ...

LISTEN! ... I SWEAR OF EVERYTHING THAT IS HOLY THAT I WILL SAVE THAT KID! GOT IT?
AND DESPITE ALL OF THAT, DESPITE ALL HIS HARDSHIPS SINCE HIS BIRTH, THEY ALL MAKE ME WANT TO THROW UP ... YET HE SURVIVED!